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A CIRCUMSTANTIAL  
JOURNAL  
Of the LONG and TEDIOUS  
BLOCKADE and SIEGE  
OF  
GIBRALTAR,

From the 12th of September, 1779, (the Day the Garrison opened their Batteries against the Spaniards) to the 23d Day of February, 1783;

CONTAINING,

An authentic Account of the most remarkable Transactions, in which the Enemy's Motions, Works, Approaches, Firings, &c. are particularly described.

In a Series of Letters, from the Author to his Brother.

---

By S. ANCELL, of the 58th Regiment.

---

*Guarded by British Arms,---Gibraltar Rock,  
Of France and Spain sustains the hostile Stock;  
See them, in vain their Arms, their Arts employ,  
To storm the Garrison---a second Troy;  
Though that, the Greeks, by ten Years Siege could gain,  
Here Bourbon's boasted Efforts prov'd in vain.*

---

L I V E R P O O L :

PRINTED BY CHARLES WOSENCROFT.

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M,DCC,LXXXIV.

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JANUARY

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To

LIEUTENANT GENERAL  
LANCELOT BAUGH,

Of His Majesty's 58th, (or RUTLANDSHIRE)

Regiment of Foot,

AND TO

THE OTHER OFFICERS,

Whose Share in the memorable Transactions,

Here recorded,

Justly entitle them to the Public Esteem;

These Sheets are

Respectfully and gratefully inscribed,

By their most humble

And obedient Servant,

SAMUEL ANCELL.

LIVERPOOL,  
AUGUST 1784.

## To the Reader.

FOR any Inaccuracies which may be met with in these Letters, the *Reader*, it is hoped, will be induced to make Allowance, if he considers the Duties of the Writer as a Soldier. The Circumstances are authentic, and were penned during a long and laborious *Siege*, amidst the Roar of *Guns, Mortars, Howitzers*, and the bursting of *Shells*.

OF the *Generosity* of the Public, the Author has had, on this Occasion, ample Proof; is happy in returning Thanks to the numerous Subscribers, for their Encouragement, and now entreats their *Candour* in their Perusal of the following Sheets.

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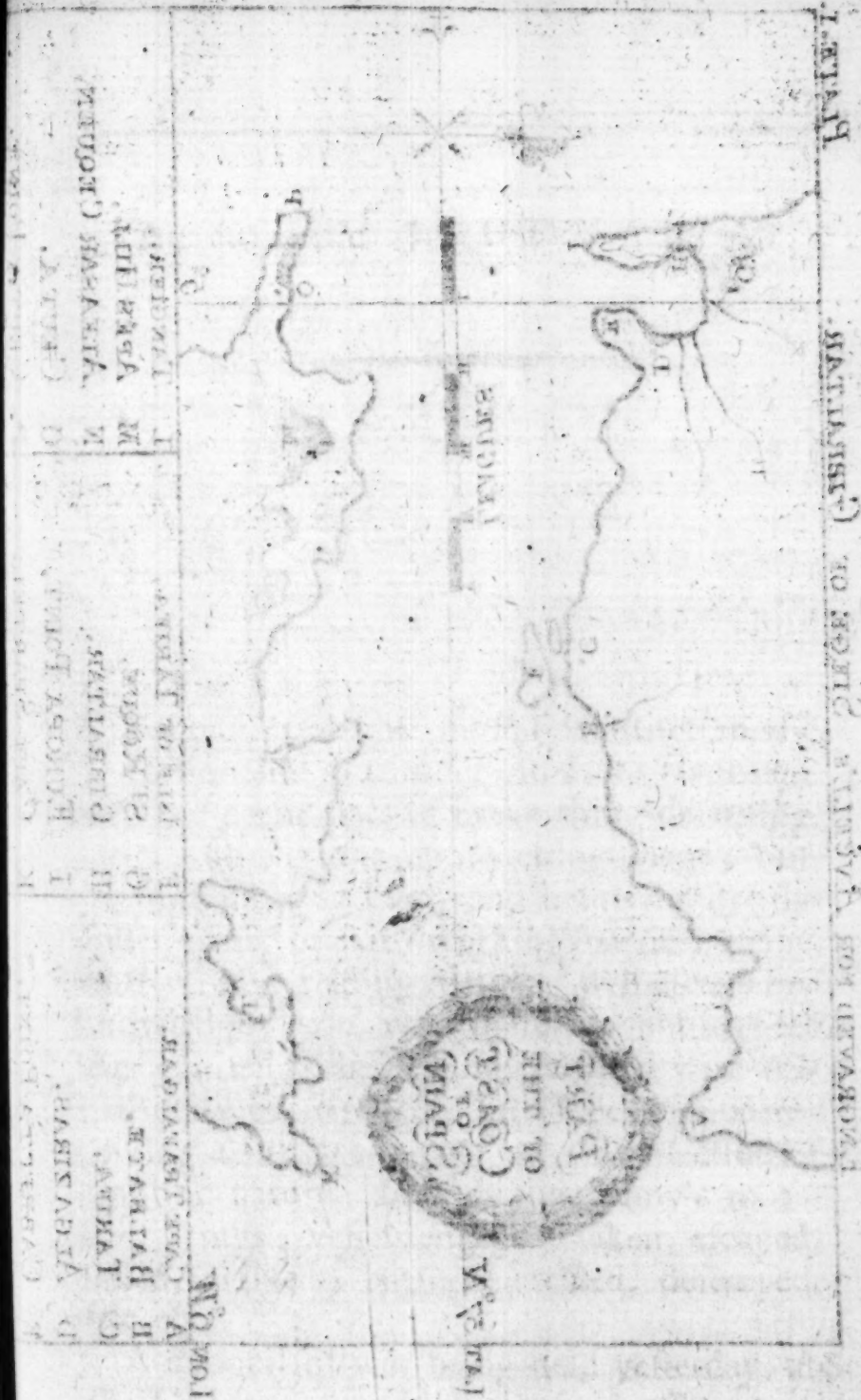
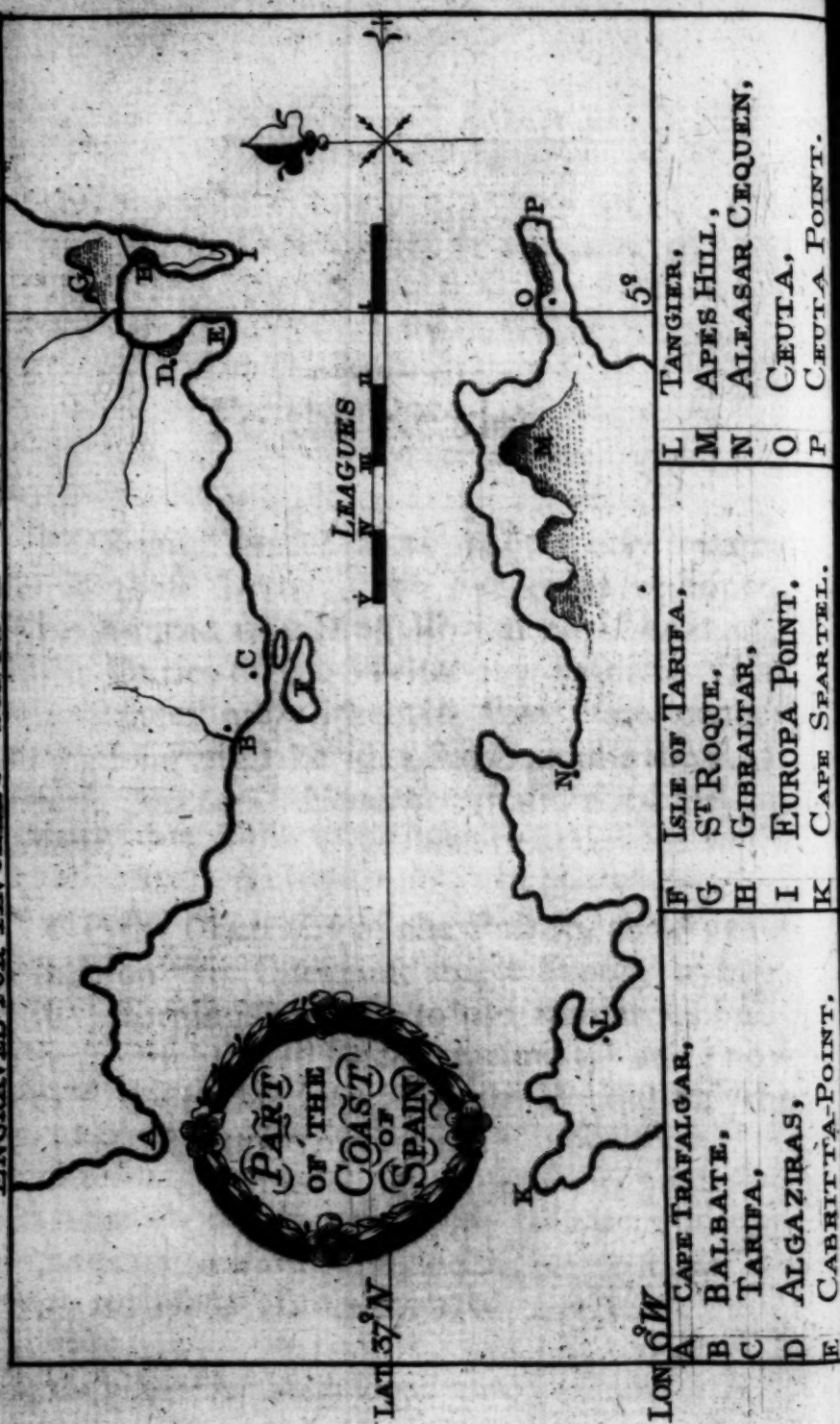


PLATE I



ENGRAVED FOR ANCELL'S SIEGE OF GIBRALTAR. PLATE I.



An authentic JOURNAL, &c.

LETTER I.

GIBRALTAR, 1779

Dear BROTHER,

I SHOULD think myself wanting in affection and gratitude, did I not favor you with the particulars of every thing deserving notice, during the approaching Siege; but circumstanced as I am, and being constantly under arms, or with working parties, many matters of a trifling nature, will escape my knowledge; you will therefore not expect this Journal to be elaborately filled with trivial daily occurrences, but depend upon receiving a full account of every transaction of a public nature; such as the enemy's motions, firings; vessels engaged, taken, escaped, failed, arrived; batteries erected, destroyed, &c. &c.

A council of war being held yesterday, at Sept. the Convent, at which the field officers and 12th naval commanders assisted, it was resolved  
unanimously,

1779 unanimously, to commence a cannonade on Sept. the enemy, and accordingly this morning (having previously withdrawn our advanced guards from Bay Side, and Forbes's) we opened our batteries on the enemy, beginning at Rock Gun down to the Mole Head, employing every gun that could possibly bear upon them. An officer's lady, whom curiosity had excited to the batteries, was encouraged to discharge the first gun, and having taken the lighted match, (with an intrepidity not peculiar to the sex) Gen. Elliott, pronounced in a true heroic style " Britons strike home", and immediately every battery and angle bellowed with rage, and foamed with destruction

At the first discharge our shot dropped short; so that their advanced guards had time to escape to their lines, and their precipitate retreat almost occasioned a general laugh, to view the Dons tumbling one over another, as they fled from the showers of shot. When the enemy had reached their lines, we gave more elevation to our guns, and Fort Barbara and St. Philippe received a heavy cannonade, nor were any part of the Spanish lines neglected. As I came up the street about two hours after, from Waterport, (having been the preceding day and night on duty at that post) I could not but remark the timidity and fearful apprehension pictured in the countenances of the inhabitants

tants, as they were held in expectation of 1779  
as furious a return from the enemy. The Sept.

Jews and Jewesses exhibited the most descriptive amazement, accompanied with significant shrugs, and eyes raised to the skies; with nimble steps they took shelter at the southward, leaving their houses and effects. (except such as were of convenient carriage) exposed to the dangers that must have ensued had the enemy opened upon us. About four in the afternoon we began to throw shells into their forts, and the enemy who had secured some indifferent shelter from our shot, now found themselves most inconveniently annoyed, as we often perceived that they appeared in disorder.

A heavy and incessant fire all night. The 13th  
enemy appear to be in motion, and our expectations lead us to imagine that, about noon they will return the compliment. The fearful inhabitants, who sheltered at the southward, cannot be persuaded to return, but seem happy in their minds, that they are out of the reach of the foe. 'Twas observed to-day, that their forts have received some damage from our firings.

No return from the enemy. The uneasiness of the people seems less predominant, and they now venture to return to their habitations in town. The enemy appear very busy; they are encamped at the foot of Santa Roque, to a great number, with some squadrons



1779 squadrons of horse; they appear to be about Sept. 16,000 men, including the Catalan troops; they are beginning to carry fascines and gabions to their lines, so that it is beyond dispute they mean to return the fire. When we first received the account (June 21st) from General Mendoza, Commandant at Santa Roque, of the commencement of hostilities, between their Catholic and Britan-  
nic Majesties, it occasioned a general rumour in the garrison; the governor and officers assembled on the Grand Parade, and every tongue was employed in delivering their opinions: Our advanced guards and lines were reinforced, and detachments of the picquets sent to the weakest places, as we concluded that the enemy would endeavour to surprize the place.

Hostilities being thus commenced, Gen. Elliott, with the advice of the navel commander, issued letters of marque, to several privateers in this port, who immediately went out and captured some small prizes, with wine, brandy, and other necessaries, that will be much wanted: but on the 26th of July, Don Barcello, with two line of battle ships, two frigates, one xebec, and several galleys, anchored off Cabritta Point, to keep the port blockaded. Our cruizers were under the necessity of returning to the bay, and are now laid up, as the enemy are ever watchful of their motions, and our force is

too weak to offer an opposition. It is cur-1779  
rently reported that Spain's intention is, by Sept.  
famine, to oblige us to surrender; you may  
therefore conclude, that while the enemy  
remain masters of the Straits of Gibraltar,  
our situation will be exceedingly disagreea-  
ble, and we shall be greatly necessitated for  
refreshments.

Our Governor is indefatigable in improv-  
ing the works, particularly those on the  
heights of the hill, most convenient to annoy  
the enemy and prevent their approaches.  
The unthinking part reflect upon him, for  
being sparing of the provision, and taking  
part of the merchants stores for the king's  
use.

The enemy are very assiduous; many work 20th  
ing parties employed, but we cannot form  
any judgment of what they are doing. To  
day a settee, that seemingly stood for the bay,  
with wind at W. was conducted by Barcello's  
cruizers to Algaziras :---This circumstance  
makes us rather uneasy, as we fear that many  
more will share the same fate. Deserted, a  
serjeant, and a Hanoverian, who notwith-  
standing our shot, escaped safe to the enemy.

The enemy are quiet, but continue a sharp 30th  
look out in the Gut. This day, Barcello's  
ship was dressed with variety of colours, and  
a salvo fired. He rides most magnificently,  
exulting over a people shut up like poultry  
in a coop. He is so vain, and so possessed

B

with

1779 with the prospect of our capitulating, that  
 Sept. he has ordered all officers, under his com-  
 mand, to wear the key of the Straits, tyed  
 with a ribbon upon their bosom. We may  
 expect the next month will furnish more im-  
 portant intelligence. Whatever happens, (if  
 I survive) you may depend upon receiving  
 a minute and circumstantial account, from

Dear Brother,

Yours affectionately.

## LETTER II.

GIBRALTAR.

Dear BROTHER,

1779 **F**AR distant from every endearing friend,  
 Oct. and the social joys of fellowship, I a-  
 gain take my pen to write to you. Nothing  
 material has happened; the enemy are ex-  
 ceedingly assiduous at work, and we are con-  
 stantly playing upon their parties; Barcello,  
 with the strictest vigilance, watches the Gut,  
 and some of his cruizers are mostly stretch-  
 ing from Ceuta to Cabritta Point, to guard  
 the offing. We have not received any sup-  
 plies or intelligence, nor have we observed a  
 ship, boat, or fettee, endeavour to get in:  
 Every thing is getting at so exorbitant a  
 price, that it is almost impossible for a per-  
 son of moderate income to purchase what is  
 requisite for sustenance.

This

This day, a twenty-four-pounder was 1779 dragged up the face of the Rock to Mid-Oct. shipman's Look-out, or Rock Gun, the 9th. labour and danger attending it, is not to be conceived, as it was carried over points of rocks to a height of 1357 feet.

The enemy's force now consists of,

At Algaziras.	{ 1 ship	70 guns	700 men.
	{ 1 frigate	36 do.	300 do.
	{ 1 xebec	32 do.	250 do.
	{ 1 do.	28 do.	200 do.

At Ceuta.	{ 1 ship	60 guns	600 men.
	{ 1 frigate	26 do.	250 do.
	{ 1 xebec	18 do.	200 do.
	{ 1 do.	20 do.	180 do.
	{ 1 do.	14 do.	80 do.

Constantly cruizing.	{ 1 xebec	16 guns	100 men.
	{ 4 smaller		240 do.
	{ 6 half-galleys		1000 do.
	{ 6 quarter-galleys		450 do.
	{ 20 armed boats		300 do.

On our side are at anchor,

Panther,	60 guns	400 men.
Enterprize,	28 do.	200 do.
Childers,	14 do.	90 do.
Gibraltar,	12 do.	40 do.
Fortune,	10 do.	30 do.

Last night the enemy were excessively Oct. hard at work, our batteries poured upon 20th them



1779 them a liberal distribution of shells, but not-  
 Oct. withstanding, they completed their operation, and this morning exposed to our view three new batteries, two of fourteen and one of seven guns, constructed for playing upon our lines, Landport and Waterport.

30th No prospect of relief: We begin to think England has forgot that such people are in existence. The enemy are quiet, but exceeding watchful, and labour much at their approaches; we cannot form any judgment of what they are doing: We keep up a fire upon them.

This day the Peace and Plenty privateer being chased to the eastward by a frigate and two row galleys, wind at S. E. unfortunately run ashore between the Devil's Tower and Fort Barbara. Our batteries commenced a brisk cannonade on the fort, and dismounted several of their guns, but notwithstanding, the enemy poured into her a prodigious quantity of round and grape shot; the boatswain had his right thigh shot off and died soon after. The captain finding it impossible to get her off the bed of sand where she had run aground, and grape shot coming in a continual shower from the enemy, he and his crew having took out a few things in their hands abandoned her and came in at Landport. She was detached by General Murray from Minorca to view our situation, and see if any supplies were come from England.

land. She had taken several prizes to the 1779  
eastward, and relates that the troops at Mi- Oct.  
norca are in good health, and want nothing  
but cloathing.

The enemy kept all night a fire upon the 31st.  
unfortunate privateer, they have greatly shat-  
tered her hull and rigging, so that she will  
never be fit for sea again. The enemy seem  
to be making preparations for a vigorous at-  
tack, they have begun forming several bomb  
batteries. Our fire is without intermission,  
which the enemy patiently bear. Several of  
our howitzer shells fell among their work-  
ing parties and killed a great number. Ge-  
neral Elliott continues to increase the forti-  
fications; and working parties from each  
regiment in the garrison, are employed in  
erecting traverses in different parts of the  
streets to shelter the troops, and inhabitants,  
from the enemy's shot whenever they open  
their batteries. We have not received any  
supplies either from England, Portugal,  
Tangier, Tetuan or Minorca, nor has a ship  
appeared but the Peace and Plenty standing  
for the bay. The Spanish cruizers keep  
hovering in the Offing. We wait the arrival  
of a fleet with impatience.

Yours, &c.

LETTER

## LETTER III.

GIBRALTAR,

Dear BROTHER,

1779 **T**HE enemy last night fired a carcass into  
 Nov. the privateer which run aground the  
 1st. 30th ult. and in a few hours she was consum-  
 ed. The enemy continue to work, and we  
 continue to fire. Provision is getting extra-  
 vagantly dear and scarce: Fish and flour are  
 the chief support of the inhabitants. A small  
 string of fish, (about the size of a large sprat,  
 eight in number, costs five or six rials, up-  
 wards of two shillings English.

This day the bakers shut their doors, and  
 delivered the bread thro' a wicket, protected  
 by a guard, as the crowds were so pressing,  
 that they were under the apprehension of  
 their houses being pulled down----the flour  
 they have in hand will not last, according to  
 computation, more than two months. Ant.  
 Smilie, a capital Genoese baker, assured me,  
 he had only 18 barrels of flour to serve him-  
 self, family, and the public. The Gover-  
 nor has ordered them to bake but a stipulated  
 quantity daily.

It is really grievous, to see the fighting  
 of the people for a morsel of bread, at a price  
 not to be credited by those who never knew  
 hardship or their country's service. Men  
 wrestling, women intreating, and children  
 crying, a jargon of all languages piteously  
 pouring

pouring forth their complaints. You would<sup>1779</sup> think sensibility would shed a tear; but yet Nov. when we are in equal distress ourselves, our feelings for others rather subside. Compassion is very extensive, but self-preservation shuts out all condolence.

This day arrived a two-decker from the 6th. west, and anchored between Cabritta and the battery at Algaziras. Several small craft also arrived

Every thing continues quiet---the enemy<sup>19th.</sup> keep busily at work at their bomb batteries. Sailed a frigate from Algaziras to Ceuta.

This morning we observed the enemy had<sup>28th</sup> recalled their working parties from the lines and that they were forming fortifications, extending from Fort St. Phillipe to Point Negro, as a defence and cover for their camp; this gives us the alluring hopes that they have some intimation of our fleet being at sea. It would be a glorious fight to see them routed and their camp destroyed. Our batteries are not idle, but keep a well directed fire on their forts and late approaches.

The calls of duty prevent my further writing. Excuse all inaccuracies, and believe that I shall always remain

Affectionately yours, &c.

LETTER



## LETTER. IV.

GIBRALTAR.

Dear BROTHER,

1759 SEVERAL days more elapsed amidst ex-  
 Nov. pectation and firing, but no prospect of  
 3d relief. The merchants are getting money  
 apace; as for every article they sell they charge  
 their own price; glad are every one to make  
 a purchase. O ye winds be propitious!  
 and quickly waft our floating castles to our  
 relief. Haste and save us from hunger, mi-  
 sery and death.

The enemy continue their works on the  
 shore, and have forwarded a battery near the  
 guard-house, on the right of St. Phillipe.  
 Our fire from the batteries is rather remiss,  
 as the enemy do not appear very numerous  
 in the lines.

12th Last night came in two deserters from the  
 enemy's Walloon guards, with their arms,  
 &c. they assert that the enemy have 1000  
 pieces of cannon and mortars in their lines,  
 and only wait an order from the court of  
 Madrid to fire, that their magazines are  
 full of powder, and that a reinforcement of  
 French troops are hourly expected. They  
 are lodged at his Excellency's house, and I  
 do not doubt but their intelligence will  
 prove advantageous to the operations of our  
 works, as they were conducted by the Quar-  
 ter-master General to Willis's, and the upper  
 batteries.

batteries (from which a proper view can be taken of the enemy's works) and gave a satisfactory description of their new approaches.

Wind N. W. This morning we were led to believe that our fleet was near at hand. The Spanish watch towers hung out signal-colours, and the battery at Cabritta Point fired a gun for their cruizers to get under weigh. The Buck privateer was soon discovered standing for the bay, under all the sail she could croud; the gun boats bore down upon and fired briskly into her, which she returned as spiritedly: two frigates having slipped anchor stretched across from Cabritta to intercept her; having got within long gun-shot they fired two or three broadsides, the cutter then tacked and stood for the Barbary shore, the frigates followed and soon drove to the leeward; she then tacked and stood again for the garrison, when a third frigate and a xebec pushed out, and likewise dropped to leeward, while the cutter kept her course; Barcello then hove to under Cabritta, with an intent to keep the windward gage---the bravadoing, blustering, and vigilant Barcello, in the St. Jean Baptiste, of 70 guns, bore down upon her, and having got within half cannon shot, poured into her several broadsides, which the cutter returned; he then made signal for the gun-boats and galleys to board, but when they had rowed pretty near, the hardy crew gave them such

1779a liberal distribution, that they were com-  
 Nov. pelled to retire. Barcello having fallen to  
 leeward, endeavoured to work up again, but  
 not being able, on account of the fresh breeze  
 at N. W. was, to his no small mortification,  
 under the necessity of going to the eastward,  
 with the remainder of his cruizers. She  
 proves to be the Buck of Folkestone, Capt.  
 Fagg, in 19 days from England. On his  
 dropping anchor at New Mole, the numer-  
 ous spectators from the batteries and walls,  
 gave him three cheers, and the General on  
 his landing, paid him the highest commen-  
 dation for his bravery and manœuvres. What  
 news he brings, is not made public, except-  
 ing that we are not to expect a fleet yet.

14th - I cannot close this account without in-  
 forming you, that some leagues to westward  
 he was chased by three cutters, and finding  
 they were English he lay too. They asked  
 him where he was bound, and answering to  
 Gibraltar, they persuaded him to return,  
 adding it was impossible to get in safe. In  
 a jocular strain he asked if there was room  
 for a coach and six to get in, which being  
 answered in the affirmative, he rolled his  
 quid two or three times, and with an audi-  
 ble oath, swore he would get in if Belzebub  
 himself gave chase.

This day we got in a settee, with 38 bul-  
 locks from Tangier; two others were taken  
 by the enemy's gun boats, one of which had  
 a packer

a packet for the garrison; they were kept for 779 long on board before they could get in, that Nov they were nearly perished: their flesh, when killed, was like a jelly, and sold for three rials eight quarts per pound.

The wind having shifted Barcello and his Squadron have returned to their station:--- they keep a sharp look out from Cabritta, being determined, I dare say, not to be beat again in so shameful a manner.

This day four Portuguese that were pri- 24th vately dispatched by the Governor to fetch a packet from Faro, returned safe; they had a small boat which was carried on camels, over rocks and mountains, being permitted by the Moors, and launched it in a creek under Apes Hill, and stole over in the night. We flatter ourselves there is good news, as the General and principal officers appeared to be in high spirits.

This morning came in a deserter from the 30th enemy, and this evening another; they both belonged to the Walloone Guards, and brought their arms with them: the latter was pursued by three horsemen, and would have been taken, had not our people been very alert at Willis's, by pouring grape shot upon the pursuers.

The enemy are bringing down great Dec. quantities of facines to the lines, and are 1st. again labouring at their approaches, but do not seem disposed to return the fire. Last night,



1779 night came in two deserters from the Wal-  
 Dec. loone Guards; they report that the enemy  
 are not to fire, while they can keep the place  
 blockaded, as General Alvarez is confident  
 that famine will oblige us to surrender. We  
 are certainly greatly distressed for want of  
 fresh provision and vegetables: Salt meat is  
 scarce to be purchased, which is sold for  
 two rials, and two and a half per pound.  
 Yesterday a baker was obliged to shut up,  
 not having flour sufficient for his family for  
 one month. Appearances are rather dread-  
 ful; God grant that a fleet may soon arrive,  
 or the consequences are to be feared.

8th Came in a deserter from the Walloone  
 Guards. He was closely pursued by two  
 horsemen, but our batteries made them re-  
 treat. He says, that they are much distressed  
 in camp for fresh water, and that a great ma-  
 ny die of the flux, occasioned by drinking  
 of the salt springs.

14th This morning we perceived two men run  
 out of the Spanish lines, and presently after  
 two horsemen followed, and having overta-  
 ken the former, they killed one on the spot,  
 and secured the other, notwithstanding our  
 fire:---And last night deserted two Hanove-  
 rians of De la Mott's regiment; they escaped  
 to the enemy from Europa Advance Guard,  
 by means of a rope ladder, which was acci-  
 dentally left by the King's workmen.

This

This morning the enemy executed the de-1779  
 ferter they took yesterday; all their regi-Dec.  
 ments were under arms. 15th

Garrison orders this day were as follow: 19th

"No gun to be fired from any of the batteries at the enemy's ships, when the distance requires more than six degrees elevation, unless such ships are engaging, or in chase. Any captain of the royal artillery, who may happen to be present on such occasions, will give his advice in the management of the guns, which the officers commanding guards will be justified in following."

Last night sailed the Buck privateer, for 21st  
 Mahon, wind S. W.

This day the enemy began a fire upon our 27th  
 outward works; they obliged the garrison  
 gardeners, who work on the isthmus or neck  
 of land (termed the neutral ground) to retire.  
 Several Genoese fishermen who were drag-  
 ging nets at the sea side, were also under the  
 necessity of retreating, leaving their nets,  
 lines and tackle, on the beach; a twenty-six  
 pound shot fell at the northermost angle of  
 (our) Prince's lines; the centinel narrowly  
 escaped. The enemy appear very busy---  
 their approaches are in great forwardness, but  
 are all mask'd; their bomb batteries appear  
 to have no ordnance mounted, nor has it been  
 observed that any number of men have been  
 employed there for some time past. We  
 conjecture that this day is only a preface, or  
 introduction

1779 introduction to the grand display, and that Dec. the long boasted exhibitions are ready for performance.

28th The enemy last night destroyed great part of our gardens, and, unbecoming the character of warriors, they meanly stole the nets, lines, &c. that our fishermen left when they made their retreat yesterday. Came in a small boat from Tangier, with goats, fowls, and eggs: she fortunately ran in under cover of the night. The goats sold for 10 cobs per head; fowls three dollars, six rials per couple; eggs six rials per dozen. Also came in three deserters from the Walloone Guards; it is currently reported that the intelligence they bring is not altogether favorable to our wishes. God grant that a fleet may shortly arrive, and that we may be enabled to give the enemy a British reception whenever they attack our walls. I herewith present you a few lines on the approaching siege.

The hostile face of war with rage array'd,

And threat'ning danger mix the black parade;

Iberia arms, and lifts the glitt'ring spear,

And thro' a sea of blood prepares to steer;

The British lion views her dire designs,  
While secrecy Britannia's council binds;

Nor

Nor dreads their force, nor shakes at  
war's alarms,

Nor quakes at cannon, or impetuous  
storms;

Their hostile preparations seem to wear;  
And speak their object to be Gibraltar.

With martial courage we our foes  
defy,

For George we live, and in his cause  
we'll die;

Nor fear we their attack upon this place,

For Eliott will the foe courageous face.

The Dons of proud Iberia he will tame,

And add new lustre to his country's  
fame.

Ye Dons go arm---ye Monsieurs  
them assist,

The British vet'rans will your pow'r  
resist,

Your efforts join'd to take this stub-  
born rock,

Will cause a scene that will your cou-  
rage shock;

Your boasting heroes with a joy elate,

Will from our roaring cannon meet  
their fate

The mighty ocean will be ting'd with  
blood,

And carcasses lie floating on the flood;

For ev'ry Briton chearfully will fight,

And bleed and die for Albion's injur'd  
right.

The



1779 The enemy are quiet; but keep constant-  
 Dec. ly at work; their parties are very numerous,  
 30th but we cannot make them desist; they have  
 broken down all their stone guard-houses,  
 and seem to be converting them into works  
 of annoyance. We may expect that the en-  
 suing year will be fertile with intelligence;  
 and that we shall be able to give a more de-  
 scriptive account of their approaches.

It is really vexing and mortifying to view  
 the Spanish hills and heights, covered with  
 cattle, while we can scarce procure a piece  
 of salt beef, and that at a price, which  
 when told, carries with it the face of im-  
 probability. I trust that God, in his in-  
 finite goodness, will relieve us from the  
 impending famine, that hourly awaits us,  
 and restore us to the nourishing necessaries  
 of life:

I am, Dear Brother,

Affectionately yours, &c.

LETTER

## LETTER V.

GIBRALTAR.

Dear BROTHER,

I AGAIN take the pen to write to you, 1780 though I assure you, our most sanguine Jan. hopes seem entirely lost. Last night came 7th. in two deserters of the Walloon Guards--- from the accounts they bring, we expect to have many more months to suffer---they say that the Spaniards engaged our fleet off Cape Finister, that the English were defeated, and a great many captured. Yesterday arrived some fresh troops in their camp, and this afternoon, a small boat that made a push for the garrison, was taken off Cabritta Point; it is not improbable that she was detached with intelligence for the place, as she did not appear to be deeply laden.

A Neapolitan polacre, laden with barley, 8th. having come within the reach of Europa guns, we discharged a few shot at her, and obliged her to come in; she will afford us some relief:--Barcello seemed to be very uneasy at her getting in, for he made a signal immediately for a frigate and a xebec, to cruize to the eastward: They pass'd by within long gun shot of the Garrison.

Several random shot from the enemy, but with no material damage done; they seem to have a great inclination to begin the work---We

1780 keep a moderate fire upon their parties, and Jan. approaches.

12th The enemy still continue to fire occasionally; a shot struck the parapet of the Old Mole---a 26-pound shot (the first fired into the Garrison) went through the roof of Mr. Quartin's house, and drove a splinter into a lady's heel, who was walking in the street; another went through a centry box in Landport covered way: A mule belonging to the waggons (who go to the Devil's Tower to take in stone) was lamed by their fire; and the enemy, in an unprecedented manner, inhumanly fired at a clergyman performing the ceremony over the body of a deceased soldier.

13th This day the field officers commanding corps assembled at Colonel Ross's quarters, to take into consideration the present situation of the garrison provision; when it was ordered, that the soldiers ration should be shortened, viz. half-pound beef, quarter-pound pork, and one pint pease per week, deducted from each man's allowance.

Our situation every day appears more alarming, there being a scarcity of almost every thing in the Garrison---fire-wood a cobb per hundred; flour 5 rials per pound; no fresh meat except an old cow, or worn-out ox, (only one perhaps killed in a month) which is sold at 4 and half or 5 rials per pound; fowls 20 to 24 rials each; a goose 10 dollars; a turkey 20 dollars; eggs a cobb

cobb the dozen; and every other necessary 1780  
 in proportion. Jan.

This morning a soldier deserted from the 15th  
 back of the Rock, where he was with a party  
 cutting bushes. He made an excuse that he  
 had dropped the key of his box, and being  
 indulged to search for it, he observed the  
 party busy, and took his rout by the eastern  
 shore:--we fired many shot at him, but all  
 ineffectually.

This afternoon, Wind W. S. W. an Eng-  
 lish brig appeared in the offing; she was  
 chased by a xebec and several gallies, but  
 fortunately got safe into New Mole: She  
 brings the joyful and happy tidings of a fine  
 fleet being within twenty-four hours sail of  
 the Garrison. She parted with them five  
 days ago in a gale of wind, off Cape Finister.  
 Three officers of the artillery, (bound for  
 Minorca) who came passengers in her, were  
 on our Grand Parade this evening, receiving  
 congratulations, and giving information.

You cannot, dear Brother, picture to your-  
 self the joy of the Garrison, nor can the most  
 energetic language describe it, looking upon  
 ourselves as people reprieved from death, or  
 consequences worse---true British testimo-  
 nials exhibited among the soldiery, over their  
 bottle and glass, and the most tender and  
 sympathetic emotions among the long-dis-  
 tressed and suffering inhabitants. Sordid  
 avarice and exorbitancy, I trust, will now  
 be



1780 be forgot, and those who made a trade of the  
 Jan. distresses of their fellow brethren, will not  
 15th enjoy with tranquility of mind, their ill-got  
 gains. I have not time to write more,  
 the present calls of duty oblige me to con-  
 clude, subscribing myself,

Your affectionate Brother.

---

## LETTER VI.

GIBRALTAR.

Dear BROTHER,

1780 **A** GROUP of transporting ideas employ  
 Jan. my mind, and whilst I am reflecting  
 16th on the prospect of relief, I am equally cap-  
 tivated with the thoughts of information  
 from you, from whom I have not received  
 a single line these many months. The Gar-  
 rison are all on the wing :--the sound of the  
 fleet is all that is to be heard, and every rock  
 and hill re-echoes the blissful tidings. This  
 morning flour sold for six-pence per pound,  
 which was some time past two shillings, and  
 a great favor to obtain it at that price ; the  
 shops that were shut up are now opened, and  
 adorned with bread, biscuit, rusk, &c. The  
 Garrison appears in an entire state of trans-  
 formation, and the people are so busy pur-  
 chasing.

chasing eatables, that it brings to my re-1780  
 membrance the festive fairs in England.--- Jan.  
 Every perspective is employed, and spy-16th  
 glasses are mounted like cannon on the walls,  
 directed towards the Gut---various reports  
 are circulating: The enemy have hung out  
 signal colours from their watch towers; not  
 a ship nor cruizer on the opposite side at-  
 tempts to move. I believe the scene is  
 changed, without as well as within the  
 walls. Poor Barcello must feel, with inex-  
 pressible pangs, this sudden stroke that robs  
 him of all his promis'd honors; that shuts  
 him and his vigilant cruizers up at Algaziras,  
 and compells them to view with madden'd  
 rage, the British ensigns that bid defiance  
 to Andalusia's shore.

Came in a deserter, Walloon Guards.---  
 Intelligence not publicly known.

Last night arrived (unmolested) a brig 17th  
 laden with flour; she left the convoy two  
 days since, and brings word, that they have  
 taken a Spanish convoy of one ship of the  
 line, five frigates, and twenty-four sail of  
 transports, bound from Bilboa to Cadiz.---  
 We hourly wait their arrival. Stopped our  
 ration, according to order.

This morning came in the Apollo frigate.  
 She brings the intelligence that several men  
 of war got under sail from Cadiz, to engage  
 our fleet, that the British were victorious,  
 and that the enemy had one sunk, one  
 blown

1780 blown up, one stranded, and four captured.  
Jan. Glorious news!-----Received half a pint of  
18th rice in lieu of pease.

19th Last night two English men of war came  
in, and confirm the above engagement. A-  
bout six this morning came in, the Phoenix,  
a Spanish 80 gun ship, being the one the  
Admiral commanded. She lost her main-  
top-mast, and other rigging in the engage-  
ment. Admiral Don Langara received a  
wound in his groin. The British fleet hav-  
ing stood too near to the Barbary shore, over-  
shot the Bay, and drove to eastward in the  
night, and it is probable it will be two or  
three days before they can work up. The  
Spanish Admiral came ashore this evening,  
and was carried in a sedan chair. Every  
guard he passed paid him the honor due to  
his rank.

21st Wind E. Came in three 70 gun ships,  
one a Spanish Commodore, also the Guiposco-  
ana a 64, taken with the Bilbao convoy, and  
great part of our fleet; they are so thick I  
cannot number them with any precision.  
About eleven this forenoon came in the Prince  
George, Admiral Digby, with Prince William  
Henry on board. Admirals Rodney and Ross  
are standing for the Rock. Our shipping  
have taken to the eastward two xebecs, and  
a great many settees bound for the camp of  
St. Roque. Prince William Henry landed,  
accompanied

accompanied by the Admiral; the General<sup>780</sup> received them with the warmest encomiums, Jan. and the garrison and shipping performed a 21st. salute.

The Spanish Squadron, commanded by Admiral Don Juan de Langara, Gefe de Esquadra, which Admiral Rodney fell in with off Cape St. Mary's, are as follow :

Phoenix,	80 guns	} Taken and brought in here.
Diligente,	70 do.	
Monarca,	70 do.	
Princessa,	70 do.	
St. Domingo,	70 do.	blown up.
St. Eugenio,	70 do.	taken, then aban- doned.
St. Julian,	70 do.	and stranded.
St. Lorenzo,	70 do.	} Escaped.
St. Augustin,	70 do.	
Santa Rosalia,	26 do.	
Santa Cecilia,	28 do.	

The Terrible man of war, and four other 22d. ships, being drove by the rapidity of the current, near the enemy's forts Phillipe and Negro, they beat to arms in their camp and made a position of defence; they fired 157 shot and seven shells, but did no other damage than killing a Spanish prisoner on board the Terrible. This day, the Spanish Commo-  
dore landed.

Wind W. Took a sette going to Ceuta. 23d.

This



1780 This day the troops received their beef  
 Jan. and pork, stopped last week. All hands at  
 24th work unloading the shipping--Several cranes  
 have been erected from South-port to the  
 New Mole.

25th The enemy this morning fired two shot  
 towards the Garrison, one grazed North-  
 Line-Wall Guardhouse. About eight this  
 morning, a corporal and five Walloon desert-  
 ers, who made a push for the Garrison, were  
 pursued by a party of horse and foot, the  
 corporal was taken, and two they knocked  
 down and run them through with their bay-  
 onets, afterwards beat them with the butts  
 of their firelocks, and slashed them with their  
 swords; one of them they carried off in tri-  
 umph: We shot one of their horses in the  
 hind leg, in their retreat, who remained on  
 the isthmus or neck of land during the day;  
 three escaped the massacre, owing to the ac-  
 tivity of their heels, and the one whom they  
 left on the sands, a party of our people  
 brought in, so miserably hacked, that he  
 was shocking to behold;--two Genoese bu-  
 ried him this afternoon, outside of Forbes's  
 Gate. Before that our batteries could afford  
 the deserters any assistance, the pursuers had  
 got under the direction of our cannon, and  
 our musquetry was to very little purpose  
 employed. Came in and anchored, this  
 morning, Admiral Sir Geo. Bridges Rodney,  
 and

and several other ships. This day received 1780  
several flags of truce, respecting the exchange Jan.  
of prisoners. 25th

This morning we perceived the Spanish 26th  
infantry under arms, soon after observed a  
gibbet erected, and a criminal executed. It is  
beyond dispute that the unhappy sufferer, is  
the corporal they took yesterday on the isth-  
mus. This afternoon the Fortune cutter,  
under a flag of truce, conveyed the sick and  
wounded prisoners to the Orange Grove,  
where the enemy received them. Came in  
and anchored in the Bay, Admiral Lockhart  
Ross, with some settee prizes taken to the  
eastward.

This morning arrived from Tangier, a  
small boat with lemons and oranges ;--a ve-  
ry useful article, as they are very salutary in  
the cure of the scurvy. Came in a Spanish  
brig; four line of battle ships and a 64 are  
at anchor in the Bay, adorned with the Bri-  
tish ensigns.

Barcello, no doubt, is fired with rage at  
so unexpected an alteration, especially to  
view the shipping intended to prevent suc-  
cours being thrown in here, now in a situa-  
tion of being employed against him. How  
contemptible must he appear after all his  
pomp and parade, to be shut up and forced  
to yield the sovereignty of the Bay, where  
his heavy cannon so awfully rattled along the  
shore.

E

Arrived

1780 Arrived a boat from Tangier, with a few Jan. dozen of fowls. Came in a settee with bul-  
28th locks and other refreshments from Tetuan.

One of our frigates cruizing in the Offing, captured a settee bound for the camp.

29th This forenoon landed from the ships of war, the second battalion of the 73d regiment, under the command of Lieutenant-Colonel George M'Kenzie: They were under orders for Minorca, but our Governor, with the advice of the Admirals, and Field Officers, has detained them here. This afternoon wind S. W. Commodore Eliott in the Edgar, and a frigate gave chase to a ship off Cabritta, under Dutch colours; which as soon as she perceived, she tacked and stood for the land; Eliott bore down upon her, and quickly got within long gun-shot, when she hoisted Spanish colours, and run ashore under Cabritta: A brisk fire ensued on both sides, in which the battery took a part, but Rodney perceiving their situation rather dangerous, hoisted a signal for them to return. It is imagined that she was detached with instructions to Don Barcello.

30th Garrison orders this day were

*"Whenever the captain of Willis's observes a parley coming out of the Spanish lines, he is to call over to the captain of the Princes lines, to acquaint the captain of Landport guard, who is to report to the Governor."*

The



The Spanish boats were yesterday employ-1780. ed in endeavouring to get the ship off, which Jan. they did not effect till this morning's tide. 30th She must be greatly damaged, as it is a rocky shore where she ran aground: They have warped her in among the rest of the laid-up shipping at Algaziras. Early this morning came in three (naked) deserters from the Walloon Guards, they having swam from the foot of the Fort St. Phillipe. They report that the Spanish General holds a position of defence every night, as he expects our shipping will fire upon their camp, before they leave the bay. The enemy have mounted artillery in their 14 and 7 gun batteries, and seem to have prepared to act on the defensive at their forts---We keep a moderate fire upon them, and often put their Guards in disorder. Every one is amazed that the enemy do not return it, for certainly they can have no hope of taking this place by famine, since we have received supplies from England, or should they still entertain that idea, I hope a few ships of the line will be stationed to keep open a communication between Tangier and the Garrison.

I am, dear Brother,

Yours, &c.

LETTER



## LETTER VII.

GIBRALTAR.

Dear BROTHER,

1780 **T**HE stores and provisions being almost  
Feb. landed, the fleet are getting in readiness for sea, and it is confidently reported, that none of the ships of the line will be stationed here to guard the bay; we may therefore conclude that in a short time, we shall experience a situation equally as distressing as that which we have lately been relieved from; for while the enemy commands a superior force in the bay, the nourishing supplies which would be forwarded from Tangier and Tetuan, will be cut off: A few days will leave our situation no mystery.

3d. This day the Spanish deserters embarked on board the men of war, on their passage to England. Sailed the Childers, with dispatches.

5th. Came in at Landport, two private men and a drummer, belonging to the enemy's Walloon Guards; they assert, that the General has no orders to fire, but on the defensive, and that Don Barcello has received advice from Madrid, to renew the blockade, as soon as the British fleet departs, at which time he is to be reinforced with two ships of the line and several frigates.

Came

Came in a deserter from the Walloon Feb. Guards. 10th

This forenoon wind E. N. E. Admiral 13th Rodney made signal to weigh: About 12, the men of war, including the five Spanish, viz. Phoenix, Diligente, Monarca, Princeessa, Guiposcoana, and convoy, got under sail, on board which many families had embarked, and were happy to escape the difficulties of the place:--The battery at Cabrita, fired a gun to alarm the coast, which was returned at Ceuta, as our shipping stood towards that place in order to clear the point; in the evening they were all out of sight, but the enemy continued to fire alarm guns, and threw a great number of rockets from their watch towers.

The Edgar, under the command of Commodore Elliott, the Panther, Enterprize, Porcupine, Gibraltar, and Fortune sloop remain here. At Algaziras are at anchor, one ship 70 guns, one do. 50, one frigate, and a few xebecs. We certainly are now able to oppose our enemy on the opposite side. Some of the cruizers at Algaziras have hauled out, and proceeded to the Orange Grove.

Yesterday Admiral Langara, and the other officers of his fleet, were permitted to pass to Spain on parole.

Barcello this morning hauled out to the left of the battery at Algaziras---appears to be

1780 be very busy in getting up his yards and Feb. top-masts; some of his galleys passed to the 15th westward. On the land side a few working parties have again made their appearance.

27th Nothing material has happened these many days, excepting that the Spanish horse and infantry, have been performing their evolutions, twice every day: It is computed their number fit for actual service is about 17 or 18,000. Last night came in a small boat with lemons and oranges from Tangier. The enemy's gun-boats chased her under Europa, which occasioned a few shot to be discharged from that post.

This day arrived at Algaziras, from the westward, four line of battle ships, two frigates and one xebec.

28th Wind W. Arrived at Algaziras, a frigate and a xebec from the westward. The frigate saluted Barcello, but no return was made. It appears as if they intended to renew the blockade.

Mar. This morning alarm signals were made at 4th Ceuta, of the appearance of an enemy to the eastward. Wind N. N. E. Barcello immediately loosed his fore-top-sails, as a signal to weigh: A frigate, xebec, and two galleys, made ready, and stretched across for Ceuta: soon after he followed, but had not quite cleared Europa, when the cruizers discovered her



her to be a xebec. The wind having shifted 1780 to the S. E. this evening, the enemy have again anchored at their look-out on the opposite side. Several galleys, and other insect cruizers that stole away, during the continuance of our fleet, have ventured to return.

This day our cartel, under flag of truce, received from Spain, 390 British prisoners of war. They report that Spain is determined to have the place, let the consequence be what it will, and that a large body of French troops are really embarked for the camp.

This morning the enemy appeared very busy at work: Our batteries kept showering a constant supply of small shells upon them, so that they were compelled to desist.

Last night a deserter came in from the Walloon Guards; from the account he gives, the enemy suffered considerably from our fire yesterday. One shell killed and wounded 25 persons.

The Spanish Squadron this morning were decorated with variety of colours; in the afternoon their troops in camp were arranged in three lines; the battery at Fort Negro made a tripple salvo of 12 guns each time, which was answered as often by a running fire from the enemy: The batteries and shipping at Algaziras performed the same.

A neutral vessel was brought in by Barcelo's cruizers for examination, he being determined



1780 terminated not to let a ship pass unnoticed.  
 Mar. For these three days we have not fired much,  
 19th being busily employed in strengthening our  
 works, particularly those adjoining to the  
 isthmus.

25th Wind W. This day arrived several polacres and settees at the Orange Grove---We conjecture they are laden with stores for the camp.

29th At day break this morning, a signal-gun was fired from a xebec near the point; several armed cruizers got under sail, and formed a line from the Point to Ape's Hill, where after firing a shot, they captured a settee, and brought her in with her colours reversed. It is imagined she had cattle on board for the Garrison, which is very much wanted, as very little fresh meat can be purchased. Our provision is chiefly salt beef and pork, and that we use sparingly, not knowing when we may receive another supply. Vegetables are scarce and dear, and what are sold, are no better than the rubbish of a dunghill in England. Our barren rock yields but little, but as necessity generally strikes out a remedy, many have begun to endeavour to convert the solid parts of the rock into kitchen gardens, which some have effected by raising walls one height above another, and filling the enclosed with earth. It will appear a scene

scene of enchantment to Barcello, when he 1780  
beholds the face of the dry and barren rock, Mar.  
in a state of vegetation.

I am, 29th  
Dear Brother,  
Yours, &c.

# LETTER VIII.

GIBRALTAR.

Dear BROTHER,  
**T**HE enemy are still forwarding their 1780  
approaches, on our part, I can affirm April  
there is no deficiency. The Spaniards must  
sustain considerable losses in their operations,  
as we seldom let them rest. Our fire, of late,  
does not prevent them working, but judge  
what must be their sufferings, when we are  
hourly pouring up n their parties, great  
quantity of shells and grape shot.

The sufferings of the British troops, at  
present, is from heavy duty, and the scarcity  
of provision, but we may expect in a short  
time another scene to be exhibited; when  
the enemy have completed their approaches,  
I imagine they will retaliate, but we are pre-  
pared to withstand their efforts, and while a

F

round

1780 round of ball and powder is left, Great Apr. George's name will be sounded from our cannon.

7th Last night a boat was dispatched to Barbary, to learn if there was a packet, or any intelligence from England :---Several cruizers were discovered in the Gut this morning, so that many conclude she was taken.

10th This morning about three o'clock, came in safe, the boat that was sent to Barbary. She brought a packet to the General, but no intelligence has transpired. The patron of the boat has refused to answer any particular questions.

14th Last night wind W. arrived the Hyena frigate, in 13 days from England : She exchanged several shot in the Gut with the enemy's rebecks. Barcello, this morning (the wind having shifted) detached a frigate to the W. where she keeps tacking and hovering about the Gut.

20th Wind E. This morning about 9, the Edgar and Hyena, got under way suddenly, and stood to the westward ; the Spanish towers immediately spread the alarm, and Barcello, with three ships of the line hove out, but to his no small mortification, could not weather Cabritta, until our shipping were out of sight, he being obliged to make several tacks in the Bay, owing to the stiff breeze.



breeze. They steered to the W. curling 1780  
their inauspicious stars. Apr.

This day, Barcello and his Squadron, re- 22d  
turned to their former anchorage, vowing  
revenge on St. Antonio, if he deceived them  
any more.

Last night came in a schooner, from Ma- 27th  
laga, with lemons and oranges: They are  
natives of Spain, but run in here, knowing  
it to be a good market.

Some time in the course of the night, the 28th  
schooner slipped out, unperceived by the e-  
nemy, it being very thick and hazy.

Came in a boat from Tetuan, with 12 30th  
dozen of fowls :----They had several cocks  
on board, which they were forced to kill,  
fearing their crowing might alarm the Spa-  
nish cruizers, that cover the Bay.

Last night about 10, a fire broke out in May  
the enemy's camp, which raged with great 1st  
rapidity, for upwards of two hours.

Wind E. This day arrived a convoy from 3d  
the eastward at Algaziras and Orange Grove.  
It has been observed that many carts are  
employed in carrying shot and shells from  
the Pier to the Artillery Park, where they  
are scaling their cannon; their troops ap-  
pear very busy, and their motions indicate a  
speedy attack.

The inhabitants are beginning to erect  
sheds at the southward, near Mount Plea-  
fant,



1780fant, as a retreat, whenever the enemy open May upon us, which many are of opinion will not be long.

4th Came in a boat from Tangier, with lemons, fowls, leather and Barbary pumps. The great demand in this place for shoes, renders leather an article of great emolument.

6th This afternoon the Spanish army were arranged in two divisions, and about 4, began a sham fight, similar to an attack on the Garrison, as one division took post on the rising ground under the Queen's Chair, (supposed to be the English) while the other division in the valley on the common, endeavoured to dislodge the troops above, and take possession of their intrenchments: The fire was warmly returned by those from the height, and briskly supported on both sides for three hours, when the English forces were entirely routed;--they had several field pieces, and some cannon with them. I assure you, that the fight afforded great entertainment, and the army displayed some merit in their performance. They have been practising several days, but none worthy of remark but this. It is evident they mean to familiarize their troops in the nature of an attack, so that they may be more expert in a regular assault.

7th This day a cartel from Spain, brought over

ver between forty and fifty British prisoners 1780 of war: they confidently assert that 14 sail May of the line, several frigates, and a number of 7th transports with troops, were hourly expected to sail from Cadiz, but their destination was only matter of opinion.

Last night four deserters, who endeavour- 8th ed to reach the Garrison, one only escaped safe; three were either taken or shot by the Spanish horse patrols-----He is one of the Walloons, and says, that the Spanish General has received advice from Madrid, to fire, whenever he thinks proper; 52 large mortars are mounted in their lines, with an incredible number of cannon. From this intelligence, we may conclude, that a bombardment will shortly take place.

This day a soldier was executed for theft. He died with great contrition and penitence, seemingly sensible of his situation and wickedness.

This day the Spaniards executed two men, 9th we suppose them to be those whom they took on the night of the 7th inst.

This day came in a deserter from Spain--- 11th he is a native of the place, and the first that we have received since the commencement of hostilities.

Last night came in a boat from Tangier, 12th with fowls, pigeons, and leather----The enemy chased her under the guns.

This

1780 This day a large Swedish ship having ap-  
 May proached Europa, we fired a shot, to oblige  
 15th her to come in; but to our disappointment,  
 found her cargo to consist of salt only.

This morning the Sweed sailed from here,  
 but Barcello's cruizers afterwards brought  
 her into Algaziras, for examination.

A xebec arrived at Algaziras from the  
 eastward, towing two large gun-boats.

18th This morning two boats arrived from Tan-  
 gier, with fowls and lemons;---they bring  
 word, that the Fly packet-boat, was on the  
 night of the 17th inst. cut out of that port,  
 by the Spaniards. It appears from this cir-  
 cumstance, that the Moors are inclined to  
 favor the Spanish cruizers, or otherwise  
 would not have suffered an act of this na-  
 ture, to be committed under the walls of  
 their town.

22d Arrived this day from the W. a schooner  
 laden with leather, butter and oil. No-  
 thing extraordinary in the enemy's camp.  
 Our garrison are beginning to be very sickly--  
 the small-pox rages with great violence, and  
 carries off 18 or 20 per week, but mostly  
 children. The enemy seem busy at Algazi-  
 ras; a great many boats are every day em-  
 ployed from the Orange Grove to that place,  
 but we cannot observe any thing particular  
 they are doing.

I am, yours, &c.

LETTER

## LETTER IX.

GIBRALTAR.

Dear BROTHER,

**W**E still continue our cannonade on the 1780 enemy; they are constantly bringing June down stores and ammunition to their lines, and 1st have made great improvement in their approaches. 'Tis somewhat strange, notwithstanding the slaughter our shot and shells occasions among them that they are not disposed to retaliate the compliment.

Wind W. arrived a settee from Tangier with 11 bullocks, 13 sheep, 24 dozen of fowls, with a quantity of leather, eggs, and lemons. She got in unobserved by the enemy, the wind being excessive fresh, had forced the Spanish cruizers into Algaziras.

Came in two boats with a few fowls from 4th Tetuan.

Last night deserted a soldier from the 5th Mole-head guard. He had not long been planted centry, when he left his firelock in the box, and took his passage (naked) in the water.

Came in a boat with 15 sheep from Tan- 6th gier. The Patron relates, that an English brig arrived in that port. in 18 days from Portsmouth, laden with butter, porter, and flour



1780 flour, and that the Spanish cruizers were June watching her closely.

About one this morning, wind N. W. a 7th ship was discovered standing for the New Mole; the Enterprize hailed her, upon which she answered, "A provision ship from England;" the frigate hailed again, and suspecting that she was no friend, immediately hoisted the signal of an enemy's approach: soon after several more appeared keeping the same course:--The Enterprize discharged a shot at the first, and the enemy finding they were discovered, took to their boats, and set them on fire, one after another, being 9 in number:--The wind now dropped, and a dead calm ensued; the garrison and shipping kept a brisk fire on the boats as they retreated, from which they must have suffered considerably, as they brought the first into the New Mole. Our seamen in an undaunted and gallant manner, rowed along side of the flaming devourers, and having grappled to their burning sides, they towed them quietly to the back of the New Mole, among the clefts of the rock, where they burnt to the water's edge, before a number of spectators from our walls, who were returning. Almighty God thanks, for the great deliverance; for had the wind continued to blow fresh, our shipping must have been inevitably consumed:--Three of the fire-ships drove

two

to

to the eastward ; two dropped very near the 1780  
Panther in Rosia Bay, where she lay at anchor ; and the others to Europa and Little 7th  
Bay. They burnt with surprizing fierceness  
for three hours---the masts of some stood to  
the very last, and appeared as under sail---  
The largest was a 40 gun ship, and burnt till  
this afternoon. The Garrison drums beat  
“ to arms”, and the soldiery immediately  
repaired to their stations. The terrified in-  
habitants, together with the women and  
children, were wringing their hands, weep-  
ing with the most bitter and inexpressible  
anguish, expecting every minute, a bombard-  
ment from the land-side-----Such a scene  
would pierce the most insensible heart, to  
hear their piteous lamentations. During the  
transaction, the Rock appeared as bright as  
if Aurora had just arisen, to bless the creati-  
on with her enlivening rays ; the stars re-  
clined their heads, and the skies and sea,  
were lost to perception, amidst the bright  
illumination.

Barcello, with his squadron, was under  
sail, flattering himself, that if our shipping  
were not burnt, they would cut their cables  
and push to sea ; but his stratagems were  
frustrated, and this morning he returned to  
his old station, to study more mischief.

Some time in the night came in a boat  
from Tangier, with fowls and leather. It

1780 was fortunate she was not fired at from the June Garrison, as she might reasonably have been 7th suspected for a Spaniard.

N B. There were about 20 sail of shipping in the New Mole.

8th This morning came in a privateer and a large settee from Portugal, with sheep, wine, oil and lemons. This must be an additional mortification to Don Barcello, notwithstanding the vigilance of his numerous cruizers to distress us, that we are so seasonably favored by providence.

10th Arrived with a fine breeze at W. two boats from Barbary---they brought 48 sheep and a few fowls. A gun was fired from one of the enemy's galleys, but too late to prevent their getting in.

11th Last night a man on duty, at the batteries on the hill, fell from a precipice of the Rock, and was smashed to pieces. It is supposed his intention was to desert.

12th Last night arrived a settee from Tangier, with 38 bullocks and 80 sheep; also a small boat with oil. These frequent supplies will enable the Garrison to sustain their situation with the utmost spirit. Beef is sold for three rials, and mutton four rials per pound.

14th The enemy's line of battle ships and frigates sailed from Algaziras to the E. Admiral Barcello has hoisted his flag on board a xebec



xebec--We cannot conjecture what this manœuvre will demonstrate. June 1780

Last night sailed from the New Mole, a 15th 20 gun ship for England, with dispatches. Wind N. E. Came in a small settee from the eastward, with fruit.

Arrived in the night from Algaziras, a 18th boat with six deserters belonging to the naval and marine service of the enemy :---They say that our opponents are heartily tired of their situation.

Wind W. This day arrived at Algaziras, 19th a frigate and three large xebecs, accompanied by a Moorish corsair.

Came in a small boat, with a few sheep 20th and fowls.

Last night our batteries kept a hot and incessant fire upon the enemy's working parties; they laboured uncommonly hard at their approaches, as we heard the clink of their hammers during the whole course of the night. We did not observe any additional work this morning, so that we conclude they were nailing down platforms in their works. We continue our working parties on the batteries, which are in extreme good condition to annoy the foe. 22d

Wind E. Came in a tartan, from Minorca, with leather, wine and charcoal. An excellent supply---shoes being much wanted to preserve the feet in our labours on the Rock, 23d



1780 Rock, (which are sold at 20 and 22 rials per June pair) wine to strengthen and revive our spirits, and charcoal to dress our diet, as firing is become a very scarce article; the wrecks of the fire-ships destroyed on the 7th instant, which furnished a present supply, being almost exhausted, we shall find ourselves very uncomfortably circumstanced, and greatly necessitated in a short time for a sufficiency for cooking. A Portuguese fisherman who had pulled a rib from one of the wrecks, on the morning of their destruction, and towed it to shore with his boat, received nine dollars for the small purchase.

24th This forenoon a Spanish 70 gun ship from the E. having an English ensign on her fore-top-mast-head, and a yellow flag over it, as a signal of defiance, stretched in close towards Rosia Bay, accompanied with two frigates and a xebec, and opened their fire on the Panther and Enterprize: our shipping and batteries made a brisk return,---the 70 gun ship received several shot,----the xebec had one of her sails damaged, and her boom carried away:---three of the enemy's shot came on shore; one fell at Europa, one at the Devil's Bowling-Green, and one at the New Mole. Fifteen men were wounded on board the Enterprize frigate by some powder taking fire during the action, nine are sent to the Naval Hospital, the others remained in the ship, not being in a dangerous way.

This

This morning at two o'clock, (it being a dead calm) the enemy began a fire upon the June garrison, and the Panther lying in Rofia Bay. 27th It is conjectured they were gun-boats or floating-batteries, but it being very dark, it was impossible to perceive their form. Several shot, (26lb weight) came on shore at South-barracks, but happily did not do any damage. The shipping and garrison kept up a brisk fire, the picquets of the several regiments were under arms, and the women and children roused, on hearing a general discharge of cannon. It is not improbable to imagine this to be a stratagem of Barcello's, to harass and fatigue us with repeated firings and alarms from the Bay, and then give the decisive stroke;---But they have Britons to oppose their machinations, who in time, (I trust) will let them know their hopes are built like fancied castles in the air. The more we feel our enemy, the more ardent are our desires to engage them. Every countenance is chearful, wishing to scourge those vain people.

Wind W. Arrived a boat, with sundry 29th small articles, from Tangier.

This day, our Town-Major (Capt. Burke 30th 58th Regt.) went out at Bay-side, and received a parley from the enemy. Not the least intelligence has transpired--The particulars are kept with the most profound secrecy--

1780 creasy---various are the conjectures of the  
June public. The situation of the enemy's works  
30th and approaches, indicate a bombardment,  
and some imagine that articles of capitulation  
have been sent in for negotiation; but  
this is only supposition.

The enemy have for these several days been  
carrying stores in covered waggons to their  
lines: they keep strengthening and advancing  
their approaches; their horse and infantry  
still continue exercising daily, and a great many  
men are employed in and about their Artillery  
Park,--we can plainly perceive they have  
a great quantity of shot and shells piled there.  
Next month may probably be the appointed  
time for the performance of the tragic scenes,  
and for the offering sacrifices to the God of  
War, among which, should I become an  
oblation in my country's cause, let me intreat  
you will not repine at the unalterable  
decrees of the All-wise Creator of the universe.--  
With fervent wishes for your health and  
welfare, I remain,

Dear Brother,

Affectionately Yours,

LETTER

## LETTER X.

GIBRALTAR.

Dear BROTHER,

**O**F the approaching storm, every day adds fresh confirmation. Our cartel July this forenoon went to the bottom of the Bay, 2d and received 100 prisoners of war, taken in the Admiral Keppel privateer. They bring information that 42 sail of French and Spanish line of battle ships, and ten bomb-ketches, have actually sailed from Cadiz for this place, and that 30,000 men are within a short march of the camp of St. Roque. This makes it evident that Spain is determined, if possible, to take Gibraltar, so that we may shortly expect material business executed. Some consultations have been held, but the result is not made public.

Last night, wind E. N. E. the Panther, 3d Capt. Harvey, got under way with a snoring breeze---some affirm she is gone to Tangier for the preservation of the ship, others, that she has sailed for England. The report made by the prisoners received from Spain yesterday occasioned her departure. Our force now is very formidable, viz. the Enterprize and



1780 and Porcupine frigates, St. Firmin sloop, the July Gibraltar and Fortune cutters.

3<sup>d</sup> An armed boat having come near our ships, this forenoon, was fired at several times to make her sheer off. It is imagined that Don Barcello had come over in her, to see what had become of the Panther.

5<sup>th</sup> The Spaniards this forenoon, were very busy in camp; several parties practising their mortars. We kept up a very hot fire last night, upon their parties, mostly small shells.

8<sup>th</sup> Last night, Wind E. sailed four Indiamen from this place: They came with the fleet under the command of Admiral Rodney. Our shipping intend (as the nights are now dark) to slip out occasionally. This afternoon came in a deserter from the Walloon Guards: He swam from a battery on this side of Fort Negro---the enemy fired two shot at him, He says, the Spaniards are meditating a vigorous storm, against this place, and that on the 7<sup>th</sup> of June, when the fire-ships were sent in, he was an assistant-gunner at the lines, where every thing was in readiness to bombard the town, in case any of those ships had dropped into the New Mole, that the matches were lighted, and only waited for the word "fire."

10<sup>th</sup> Wind W. Came in a packet-boat from Faro. —She lay 8 days in the creeks of the Barbary shore,

shore, before she could find an opportunity<sup>1780</sup> of getting in. The Portuguese Captain says, July that it was currently reported, that the Bri-<sup>10th</sup> tish fleet had defeated the French, on their passage to join the Spaniards at Cadiz. How far this is true, time will discover.

The prisoners of war brought in here the 2d instant, assert, that several more fire-ships are preparing at Algaziras and the rivers--- The naval Commander on this intelligence, has removed all vessels from New Mole into the Bay.

Wind W. Arrived a boat from Tangier, <sup>11th</sup> with fowls and pigeons.--From the account she brings, we may expect no further intercourse with Barbary: The Patron says, two of our garrison boats, were chased on shore by the Spaniards, and captured in that port. The Emperor of Morocco still winks at the hostilities committed by them, and even countenances their illegal proceedings, by permitting the Spanish boats to go out and seize our vessels coming into Tangier; several have been taken under the walls of that place.

Several Spanish frigates and xebecs keep cruizing in the Gut, and to the eastward of the Rock.

Between twelve and one this morning, <sup>17th</sup> the Spanish gun boats began an attack upon our shipping: The fire was returned

1780 by us, but it is imagined without any effect, they being imperceptible to the eye in 17th the night, the flash of their guns being the only object we have to direct the ordnance by: Several of the enemy's shot came on shore, and a gun was dismounted on board the Enterprize frigate.

Garrison orders.

*"Whenever there is any firing from the garrison or the enemy, or any appearance of enemy's ships, row boats, or armed vessel, approaching, the commission officers commanding guards are to report to the Governors what they observe, and mention whether all is well on the guard."*

19th About two this morning, little wind, the enemy's gun-boats again attacked the shipping and garrison, without doing any particular damage, excepting rousing the wearied soldiery, and timid inhabitants from their nightly slumber.

This day a soldier deserted from upper Forbes's, where he was at work----He got down by a scaling ladder undiscovered. It is not improbable to imagine that hereafter we shall be more frequently troubled with the gun-boats, as there is not the least doubt but he will inform them how far their shot reached.

Wind

Wind W. Arrived a Spanish ship of the 1780 line at Algaziras---and also came in here a July small boat from Faro, with lemons and onions.

This day our cartel received from Spain, 24th five British prisoners of war, who were sick when the last cartel arrived.

Wind E. Last night failed four empty transports from here, on their passage to England:---It is imagined the enemy did not perceive them. About noon a vessel arrived from Minorca, with wine, leather and onions; she narrowly escaped being taken behind the Rock---A half-galley that came out to intercept her, was fired at by our batteries and shipping, to make her keep off.

Nothing very material has taken place this month; the enemy still continue their working parties, and are forwarding some additional works: From their present operations we suppose that they are not in readiness for the attack. Barcello's galleys and gun-boats are constantly cruising. These squadrons of small craft take day about to watch the east and west entrances of the Bay.

Yours, &c.

LETTER



## LETTER XI.

GIBRALTAR.

Dear BROTHER,

1780 **W**IND W. This morning between 10  
 Aug. and 11, several guns were distinctly  
 3d heard in the Gut; soon after, we discovered  
 the Spanish cruizers chasing a small settee,  
 which stood for the bay, but before she  
 could get under the cover of our guns, she  
 was obliged to strike. It is asserted that she  
 was detached from Faro with the mail, the  
 loss of which will be much regretted by all  
 persons, not having received any letters of a  
 considerable time past.

5th Several vessels have arrived from the west-  
 ward at Algaziras, supposed to be laden with  
 ordnance and military stores.

12th We have kept almost a constant fire upon  
 the enemy this week past, but cannot make  
 them desist from their labours, which they  
 diligently execute.

Wind W. Early this morning, the Spa-  
 nish galleys and gun-boats sallied out from  
 Algaziras—a small brig appeared standing  
 for this place; the enemy began a fire upon  
 her, both of round and grape shot, which  
 she run through, till she got nearly within  
 the

the cover of the guns at Europa, when it fell a dead calm, and to our great mortification, she was boarded and towed off by the enemy, nor could we afford her any assistance. This vessel was known to be the Dolphin, with supplies, from Lisbon.

This day our cartel received the crews of four vessels taken on their passage hither, viz. Dolphin, Capt. Grant, from Lisbon; Sally and Rachael, Capt. Hays, from London; Polly, Capt. Coffin, from ditto; and Betsey, Capt. Wilson, from ditto. The three latter were taken in and about Tangier-Bay, within musquet shot of the town.

Last night the enemy threw up a great quantity of sand upon their works, to prevent the penetration of our shot; their approaches are forwarded with an astonishing assiduity and valour; their camp appears a scene of glittering lustre—we can plainly perceive that they have received a reinforcement of troops. From the progress of their operations, it is imagined by those experienced in war, that a short period, will open the grand and long-expected display, wherein Britons are to become resolute performers, and I trust will maintain with firm intrepidity, the same and glory of Britannia, and add new lustre to our Sovereign's arms.

But

1780 But should great Mars, not deign to bleſs  
 Aug. our cauſe,

26th And proud Iberia, gain a triumph'd con-  
 queſt,

If Britons in the battle are o'erpow'r'd,  
 By numbers far ſuperior, full of vigour,  
 Not worn out with the heavy toils of  
 war,

Yet firſt they'll fight with martial deſpe-  
 ration,

Nor yield to Spaniſh arms, the envied  
 fortrefs,

Not while a man is ſpar'd to fire a gun!

But this is only mere imagination,

Such valiant officers as bear command,

*Boyde, De la Motte, Green, Pickton,*  
*Hugo, Curtis,*

*M'Kenzie, Gledſtanes, Horſfall, Lewis,*  
*Maxwell;*

With many more experienc'd hardy vet'-  
 rans,

(To mention all their names, 'twould  
 tedious prove)

Like tygers to their prey the men will  
 lead,

And cheer each valiant ſoldier doom'd to  
 bleed.

Our Governor has made great additions  
 to our fortifications; ſeveral new batteries  
 have been erected upon the hill, and others  
 planned

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planned out. Should the enemy not open till these are completed, we shall sing to the Dons, the old song of Defiance, and laugh at their approaches.

I am,

Dear Brother,  
Sincerely yours.

## LETTER XII.

GIBRALTAR.

Dear BROTHER,

**T**HIS day several large settees arrived from the eastward, with timber and fascines, they anchored off the pier at the Orange Grove. It is conjectured they have other works in contemplation. Part of their cargo was landed this afternoon.

Last night two soldiers deserted from Middle Hill guard; they got down the back of the rock, which is almost an entire precipice.

The enemy keeps our port blockaded much closer than ever; about ten of their armed cruizers are constantly under Cabritta, some at Tarifa, about eight near Tangier, three or four at Tetuan, some at Ceuta, and several



1780 several at the Gut's mouth, so that it is almost impossible for any vessel to escape: The 9th gun-boats and galleys form a chain every night from Cabritta to Europa Point, and in the morning return to their anchorage.--On the land side the enemy are quiet, very few working parties employed, their works appear to be complete. We have not received an ox from Barbary since June 12th, and every species of provision is now at a most extravagant price; a turkey cock was sold a few days ago for three guineas and an half, ducks are one guinea per couple, a goose 1l. 6s. a hen 12s. powder sugar 2s. the pound, soap 1s. 4d. charcoal half a guinea for 25lb. weight, oil 2s. the pint, pork 2s. 6d. the pound, fish at the rate of 18d. do. fire-wood 5s 6d. per hundred weight, tallow candles 2s. 6d. per pound, made very indifferent, onions 8d. per pound, and all other articles proportionate dear. From this sketch you may form an idea of our present situation, and the consequences that are to follow, if some supplies are not sent from England.--Arrived a xebec from the westward at Algaziras.

14th Arrived last night, a small settee from Minorca with wine, oil, sugar, honey, onions, turkeys, and other necessaries, which are sold at enormous prices; many things almost for their weight of silver. It would really be much better if we received none of them,

as their supply is so very small, that it affords but little relief, and enhances the prices of what few things are sold in the shops.

This day a company of marksmen were formed out of the several regiments; they are to practice twice a day, and be under the command of Lieut. Burleigh, of the 39th regiment.

Our cartel this day received a Midshipman from Spain, a prisoner of war. It is confidently asserted, that the combined fleet have taken, off the Madeiras, fifty or sixty sail of our outward-bound West Indiamen, and some East India ships, many of them already arrived at Cadiz; if the account is matter of fact, the loss will be sensibly felt by England.--The enemy are busily employed in raising the merlons of all their batteries at the lines, with fascines and sand bags, and work openly upon their glacis: We do not fire upon them now, as we are forwarding some additional fortifications, and probably they might return the fire, as they are prepared for the attack, which would greatly annoy us in our labours.

Last night, wind E. sailed the Sally and Betsey, and another ship for England; we think they were both discovered, as the enemy threw several rockets from their watch towers.

1780 Last night sailed the ships *Handelier* and *Sept. Nancy*, with several women and children on board, bound for England. A cruizer under the Barbary shore fired an alarm gun, and this morning we discovered two xebecs had pushed to the westward.

27th *"Biscuit will be delivered to the regiments in lieu of soft bread, from Monday next the 2d of October, until further orders"*.

28th This afternoon a reinforcement of three large xebecs from the eastward arrived at Algaziras. --- Came in a deserter from the Walloon guards, he was dressed like a farmer, and says that he was a serjeant in the Spanish service; he is a German, speaks English and French pretty well, seems to be an intelligent man: The manner of his coming to the garrison occasions a suspicion of his being a spy; the Governor has ordered him to be stationed at Wind-mill Hill, and not to have the privilege of walking the streets, as the other deserters all have.

29th This day an additional frigate came to an anchor at Algaziras.

30th Wind W. The enemy this day brought into Algaziras the ship *Sally* and *Betsey*, under her ensign reversed. She sailed from here the 25th. It is not improbable but the three other ships have shared the same fate.

The



The Spaniards availing themselves of the 1780 darkness of the night, erected a breast work Oct. on the isthmus, between Landport Gardens 1st. and the Round Tower, about 60 feet in length, being within 800 yards of our lines; and about three they set fire to our huts in the gardens, and came undiscovered as far as Bay-side and Lower Forbes's Guard Houses, where they hung several bundles of combustibles on the pallisades to burn them down, together with machines, constructed with twelve tubes, charged with a ball cartridge; to each of which a fuze led, intended to kill the guards in endeavouring to free them from the gates; the fuze did not burn to the powder, and the machines were brought in to our laboratory. The centinels posted there did not observe them, owing to the darkness of the night, and the roaring of the sea and wind; but as soon as the flame burst out, the guards gave them a smart fire of musquetry, which obliged them to retreat.--- Previous to the affair, the enemy threw a rocket at Algaziras, which was answered at their lines, when, in an instant, the gardens appeared in a blaze: They had laid a train from our gates to the several huts in the gardens, which soon consumed them: Fortunately no material damage was done to our gates, nor any person hurt on our side.

This



1780 This day the enemy brought in, with Oct. their ensigns reversed, the *Handelier* and 2d. *Nancy*, that sailed the 26th of September. Count D'Estaing, with several general officers from the camp, came down to the lines this forenoon. He was saluted at Fort Negro with 15 guns, on his return to the camp, from whence he proceeded, accompanied with a great many boats, to Algaziras, where the shipping saluted him. The deserter who came in on the 29th last month, gave the account of the Count being expected in the camp that day, and added, that several French regiments were preparing to reinforce the Spanish army, next spring, though they flattered themselves at St. Roque, that the garrison would be in their hands much sooner.

3d. Last night we fired at the enemy's breastwork, an incredible number of small shells, and several fire balls, but we don't perceive any particular damage done.

#### Garrison orders.

*" If the enemy approach towards any of the posts, and at all times where there is any firing, or any thing extraordinary happens in the night, reports are immediately to be sent to the Governor, and the Field Officer of the day, and notice given to the adjacent posts. In case of a sudden attack, upon any of the posts,*  
the

*the Officer commanding there, will make such a disposition for the defence of his post, as the nature of the attack may seem to him to require.* 1780 3d.

About 11 last night, there was a great deal of firing at the entrance of the bay, and this morning we perceived the enemy in possession of an English cutter, with a Spanish ensign above the English.

Our cartel went out this day for prisoners of war, but they only received the women, children, and invalids—the seamen were detained. What the Spaniards mean by this is not known here.

This day the Town-Major went out to Spain with a parley; the centinel at the advanced work, at first opposed his passing, but after some deliberation, accompanied him as far as the Round Tower, where an officer came to receive the letter, but looked very sullen, not being pleased with having their works examined—It seems they have good covering for their men there.

Last night the enemy raised the merlons of their batteries at the lines, about five feet higher.

Garrison orders.

“ The men to receive to-morrow, two 8th pound of salt fish, one ditto of pork, and half a pound of beef.”

N. B. This is for the week's allowance.

Wind

1780 Wind E. This morning early, a small set-  
Oct. tee arrived with supplies from Minorca, and  
11th the Patron having intimated that two others  
were standing for the rock, our boats went  
out with an intention to assist them, but no  
such vessels appeared; however, a Danish  
dogger, in company with a Dutch convoy,  
having come pretty near Europa Advance,  
which she could not see on account of a  
thick fog—our boats boarded and brought  
her in. She proves to be from Malaga,  
bound to Copenhagen, laden with lemons,  
oranges, raisins, &c. which articles being  
deemed very refreshing to the troops, espe-  
cially the sick, the Governor ordered her  
cargo to be landed. An attempt was also  
made by our boats upon a Dutch ship, but  
on account of the fire from the frigate of the  
convoy, was compelled to desist.

12th Last night, a soldier attempting to desert  
to the enemy, from Middle Hill Guard, fell  
from the heights, and was smashed to pieces  
at the foot of the rock. One would imagine  
it to be madness in a person to endeavour to  
escape that way, as the precipices of the  
rock are so steep that the very idea to a ra-  
tional man, would deter him from such a  
proceeding.

16th Two of the enemy's gun-boats have for  
these several mornings, appeared at the Old  
Mole Head, (at long gun-shot distance) and  
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row gently along in a line opposite the King's 1780 Bastion, as if they were sounding—They Oct. prevent our fishing boats from going to their usual posts. Yesterday and this day, a large body of the enemy have been busily employed in levelling a piece of ground on the east side of the first guard-house near Fort Philippe: Our engineers are of opinion they are going to erect a battery there.

The enemy's gun-boats, yesterday and this 18th day, fired on our fishing-boats, and obliged them to come in. It is evident their intention is to cut off the refreshing supply of fish, as well as meat. The ordnance mounted in these boats, discharge shot 26lb. weight, and are of great annoyance. They are able to attack a ship of force in a calm.

Wind E. Came in a small vessel from Ma- 19th hon, with variety of articles: The gun-boats fired several shot at the St. Firmin sloop, which she returned, without any damage on either side. We have these several nights, at intervals, discharged light-balls on the isthmus, to discover if the enemy's parties were working, which the Spanish soldiers often extinguish by covering them with sand.

#### Garrison orders.

" Issues of provision for the next month, commencing 23d of October and ending 19th of November, 1780.

The



1780 The stoppage of beef will be paid for at the  
Oct. rate of 20 quarts the pound, the oatmeal  
19th at 24 quarts the gallon.

*Officers per month.*

Bread,	-	7lb.	
Beef,	-	6lb.	
Pork,	-	4lb.	
Pease,	-	4 pints	
Wheat,	-	6 do.	} In lieu of 12 pints pease, and 30 ounces butter
Flour,	-	3lb.	
Raisins,	-	2lb.	
Kidney Beans,	-	4 pints	
Butter,	-	10 ounces	
Oatmeal,	-	4 pints	

N. B. 4lb. beef and 8 pints of oatmeal to be  
paid for.

*Hospital per Week.*

Beef,	-	half-lb.	
Pork,	-	1lb.	
Oatmeal,	-	3 pints	
Butter,	-	2 and half ounces	
Wheat,	-	1 and half pint	} In lieu of 4 pints pease & 7 and 1/2 ounces butter.
Flour,	-	3-4ths of a pound	
Raisins,	-	half-pound	
Rice,	-	do.	
Kidney Beans	-	1 pint	
Vinegar	-	half-pint	

N. B. 1lb. beef to be paid for.

Men

Men per Week.		1780
Beef,	half-pound	Oct.
Pork,	1 lb.	19th
Pease,	1 pint,	
Oatmeal,	1 do.	
Butter,	2 $\frac{1}{2}$ ounces,	
Wheat,	1 $\frac{1}{2}$ pint,	
Flour,	3-grs lb.	In lieu of 3 pint,
Raisins,	$\frac{1}{2}$ lb.	pease, and 7 $\frac{1}{2}$
Kidney Beans	1 pint	ounces butter.
Vinegar,	$\frac{1}{4}$ do.	

N. B. 1 lb. beef and 2 pints of oat meal to be paid for.

Wind S. E. This morning arrived and 21st anchored under Europa Advance, not being able to get round the point, a small boat with wine and other necessaries from Algiers. The Spaniards sent in a parley this forenoon, wherein it is ordered no longer to communicate by land, the bay being appointed for that purpose.

This morning, the weather being more 22d calm, our boats brought round the sette that anchored under the Advance yesterday. About four this afternoon, three of the enemy's gun-boats saluted the Enterprize, with their 26-pounders, which she returned:—The battery at the Mole and South bastion fired several rounds at them, which made 4. K. them

1780 them take a hasty farewell--Several of their  
Oer shot came on shore.

26th This morning we perceived that the enemy had extended their advance work (now termed the Tower battery) about 50 or 60 feet towards the eastward, notwithstanding we gave them a warm and liberal distribution of round and grape shot, and some small shells during the night.

27th Yesterday and this morning, we fired several shells and shot, at the Tower battery, but without success, as most of them fell wide of the work; the Spanish soldiers encouraged by this, came out and exhibited tokens of defiance, but a round of grape from Willis's, soon made them forget their pastime. The enemy are still employed on the work adjacent to St. Phillipe, and have begun to make a battery at Cabritta Point, either to protect their cruizers which anchor there, or to annoy our shipping coming in or going out.

31st We continue to keep up a fire upon the enemy on the isthmus, which has greatly prevented their carrying on their works, they have not done any additional part since the 26th. Last night two soldiers that were centinels at Upper Forbes's, got down by means of a rope, and deserted. If they speak the truth, they can only inform the enemy, that we are prepared to repulse their  
arms,

arms, and that our works are in excellent condition; this will have a tendency more to perplex and discourage, than animate and please.

Their num'rous troops, long train'd to arms and hardships,

Fed up with promises and expectations,  
Of great encouragement, and sure reward,  
To make them fight more desperate in  
th' attack,

Within our walls the greatest unanimity  
and strict adherence to discipline presides,  
a coincidence of heart and hand to meet the  
foe, and, I venture to aver, a general wish to  
scourge the disturbers of the public tran-  
quility; dangers and difficulty apparently  
are disregarded, and the more exalted ideas  
of fame and glory reinstated. With resig-  
nation to the divine will, and the most brot-  
herly affection,

I remain

Yours, &c.

LETTER



## LETTER XIII.

GIBRALTAR.

Dear BROTHER,

- 1780 OUR situation still remains the same---  
 Nov the enemy working, and we firing:  
 1st Don Barcello, with an unexampled strictness, continues to guard the entrance of the bay, even neutrals are not allowed to pass without examination:----A snow who kept company with a French convoy which passed to the eastward, and made a sudden push for Europa, was taken to the southward of the point and carried into Ceuta. This day we fired several well directed shells into the Tower Battery, where we heard men at work.
- 2d Last night two soldiers deserted from the garrison; they got down by a rope at Zoca battery, stripped, and took to the water. The enemy worked very hard till near 12, when they were forced to leave off, on account of our fire.

Garrison Orders.

*The regiments to be served with soft bread on Monday next.*

Last

Last night, between 7 and 8, the enemy's 1780 cruizers fired at a vessel standing for the Bay, Nov. with the wind at W. the fire was returned 8th by her, and soon after we heard an explosion of powder, so that we conclude, either the vessel or a Spanish cruizer blew up. The enemy labour much at their advanced works, and notwithstanding these moonlight nights, and our frequent fire, they have extended their approaches toward the West. One of the bodies of the two soldiers that deserted the 2d inst. was found floating under the line-wall; another corps was seen taken up on the strand near Fort St. Philippe.

Last night arrived a settee, with wine and 10th sundry articles from Faro.

We kept up a heavy cannonade from all 11th the batteries that could bear upon the isthmus and lines, till after midnight. It is reported that several carts and working parties were advancing, but it would be an impossibility for the enemy to execute any business, under so brisk a fire.

Garrison orders.

*"When the officers of artillery, commanding batteries, want men for working of the guns, they will send to the picquet, for what number they judge necessary, and report to the field officer of the day."*

Wind

1780 Wind N. W. This morning early, we  
 Nov. discovered a small sail under the Barbary  
 12th sho e---three of the enemy's gun-boats set  
 out from Cabritta-point, and as soon as they  
 came near enough, began a fire of grape shot  
 upon her, and often covered her with the  
 discharge---She returned the fire faintly,  
 but kept standing her course; the boats a-  
 fraid to board her, two xebecs stretched  
 down upon her, and fired a broadside or  
 two without doing any execution: The  
 boats continued their fire until she got under  
 the garrison guns, when our batteries, at Eu-  
 ropa and Buena-Vista, played so briskly,  
 that they found it prudent to chase her no  
 longer. She proves to be the Young Sabine,  
 Capt. M'Clorg, from London, in 8 days,  
 with flour and other necessary articles, bur-  
 then 200 tons and ten men. She was great-  
 ly damaged, and her sails almost torn to pie-  
 ces, having received 29 shot, which struck  
 her in different parts during the action--She  
 had only one man slightly wounded. This  
 afternoon a Minorca settee, arrived without  
 any interruption, from among several Spanish  
 cruizers, who took her to be one of their  
 own vessels, till they saw her stand in.

14th Last night came in a settee from Malaga,  
 with fruit only--the Spanish cruizers con-  
 voy'd her almost under our guns, by means  
 of a bribe, as the Patron relates, but people

are rather suspicious of her being sent in to view our situation. Nov. 1780

This morning a tartan, a little to the eastward of the rock, made a signal for assistance, but on account of the current, our boats could not weather round: She got almost under Europa guns, where she was boarded by a Spanish lugger's boat, but the crew made their escape in their own boat, and came in---She was from Minorca with supplies. The enemy are working day and night, and we keep firing as briskly.

Sale Prices of Provision arrived here with Capt. M'Clorg.

	£.	s.	d.	
Flour, -	3	12	0	per barrel
Cork butter, -	0	1	9	per pound
Gloucester cheese, -	0	1	4	do.
Mustard, -	0	2	2	do.
Hams, -	0	2	4	do.
Bacon, -	0	2	4	do.
Tongues, -	0	3	0	do.
Coals, -	14	14	0	per chaldron
Herrings, -	4	0	0	per barrel
Candles, -	0	1	4	per pound
Porter, -	6	10	0	per hogshd.
Rum, -	0	10	0	per gallon

This is a specimen of the prices as they are sold in lots, but the buyers, who retail them again,



1780 again, almost make cent. per cent. You  
Nov. may therefore judge how those are situated  
14th who have not money, or convenience, to  
purchase a quantity.

About 8 this evening, the Malaga settee,  
received an order to leave the harbour, as  
the General entertains a doubt of her friend-  
ship.

15th Last night between 8 and 9 o'clock, fe-  
veral guns were briskly fired towards the  
entrance of the bay, and continued firing  
for the space of half an hour; and this  
morning we perceived the enemy in posses-  
sion of a brig, which we suppose to be an  
English vessel from the westward.

17th The enemy's gun-boats, yesterday even-  
ing, arranged themselves in the bay, who on  
a signal from Fort Negro, opened their fire  
towards the Rosia, the shipping off Ragged-  
staff and saluting battery, which was as free-  
ly returned by the garrison and men of war:  
Most of their shot came on shore, but did  
not do any considerable damage. This noc-  
turnal excursion, which the enemy had  
planned, greatly facilitated their operations  
on the isthmus, for while our attention was  
directed towards the naval spitfires, they  
were assiduously employed in strengthening  
their advanced works and Tower battery,  
for this morning we perceived some thou-  
sands of sand bags piled up on their approach

es, which as far as we can judge, will afford 1780 them the greatest cover from the fire of our Nov batteries on the height. This politic scheme 17th gained them a considerable acquisition, and will much forward their ensuing labours.

Notwithstanding our heavy fire last night, 18th the enemy extended their approaches considerably. They have begun forming a trench towards the Centre stone guard house, on the isthmus, to cover their men passing to and from the Tower battery.

Garrison orders.

Provisions from the 20th of November to 17th December, 1780.

*Officers per month.*

6lb beef

4lb pork

4 pints pease

4 pints of oatmeal

4 pints of wheat

3lb of flour

10 ounces of butter

2lb raisins

2 pints of rice

4lb of beef

8 pints of oatmeal } to be paid for.

2 pints of wheat }

*Hospital per week.*

1 and half-pound beef

L

17b

1780 1 lb pork  
 Nov 2 and half ounces butter  
 18th 1 pint of wheat  
 3 pints of oatmeal  
 3-4ths lb of flour  
 half pound raisins  
 1 pint of rice  
 half-pint of vinegar  
 1 lb beef to be paid for---the wheat paid for  
 as usual.

## Men per week.

1 and half pound beef  
 1 ditto pork  
 1 pint pease  
 1 do oatmeal  
 1 do. wheat  
 3-grs pound flour  
 half do. raisins  
 half pint rice  
 2 and half ounces butter  
 1-4th pint vinegar.  
 1 lb. beef  
 2 pints oatmeal  
 half pint wheat } to be paid for.

N. B. 7 lb. of bread served, weekly, to officers and men.

19th The enemy, last night, again saluted us  
 with a liberal discharge of 26-pounders,  
 directed to our shipping—The New Mole,  
 South,



South, King's, Montague's bastion and fa-1780  
luting battery opened upon them with the Nov.  
greatest fury, and continued firing upwards 19th  
of an hour: During the action, a gun un-  
fortunately burst upon the King's bastion,  
which killed the bombadier of the detach-  
ment, and wounded another man---The  
head and thigh of the former was tore off--  
several pieces of the gun flew into the centre  
of the town, but happily did not effect any  
damage.

Garrison orders.

*"No lights to appear towards the bay, in 20th  
any house, barrack, guardhouse, or other  
building, after 7 o'clock at night."*

The enemy's gun-boats continue their 21st  
nightly expeditions: They did not injure us  
much by their fire last night.

The enemy's gun-boats, last night, again 24th  
visited us with their usual generosity; but  
most of their shot fell short, so that the gar-  
rison and shipping made no return. The e-  
nemy, it is imagined, misjudged the dis-  
tance, not seeing any lights on shore, agree-  
able to the orders of the 20th inst.

The enemy continue their regular ap-  
proaches. several parties employed in bring-  
ing down to their lines, fascines, gabions,  
empty casks, &c. They have began a passage  
towards



1780 towards the garrison, and made a sortie between the 7 and 14 gun batteries: We annoy 24th them as much as possible, with our small shells, during their nightly labours, but in the day time, they don't carry on any visible work. In searching after a soldier, who has been missing these several days, (supposed to have deserted,) the skeletons of two men were found behind the rock.

25th The gun-boats attacked us again last night;—the Enterprize returned a few shot, but the garrison was silent, except towards the isthmus, where a general discharge of ordnance continued: During the time and the remainder of the night, we set fire to part of their works, but not effectually; the enemy, however, extending their approaches some yards. The work on the Strand, near Fort Phillipe, is now completely finished, being a battery of 12 guns, constructed for the annoyance of our shipping at New Mole. It appears to be about 12 or 14 feet high, and according to opinion, well executed.

26th The enemy's gun-boats generously gave us a few rounds; they fired several of their shot into the town, without doing any mischief,----one fell into the Product-Master's quarters, behind King's bastion. Our shipping, yesterday, hauled into New Mole;---many are of opinion they have some intimation

timation of a speedy attack----and others, 1780 that it is to prevent being so much exposed Nov. to the enemy's gun-boats. The Spanish 26th approaches were much forwarded last night. The centinels at the Tower battery, fired yesterday several musquet shot at our gardeners, outside of Landport; they have plundered the gardens every night of late, but now, in a daring and audacious manner, they come forward in the day time, to gather the vegetables remaining there: we occasionally fire wall pieces, grape-shot, and small shells, but they seem so resolute, that all our efforts to make them desist, cannot intimidate them--several men have been seen to fall at the Tower battery, but we have not been fortunate enough to hit one of those that come forward--The walls of the wells in the gardens afford them excellent shelter.

The Danish dogger that our boats brought 29th in on the 11th October, sailed last night for St. Ubes: The Spanish cruizers have picked her up, and carried her into Algaziras. The enemy's approaches are forwarded with an incredible rapidity. General Alvarez, who commands in the camp, visits the lines and forts once or twice a week: We know him by his uniform and suite, on which occasion we never fire into the Spanish lines. This is being politically complimentary.

This

1780 This morning came in a Spanish polacre,  
 Nov. with shoes, leather, silk, &c. on board—  
 30th She was taken to the eastward by the Ang-  
 licana privateer, who is expected to arrive  
 here hourly.

Yesterday the remaining Spanish frigates,  
 that were at Algaziras, sailed to the W. so  
 that the only ship of force which occupies  
 that place, is Barcello's xebec. Two fire-  
 ships have been brought out of Guadaranque  
 river, and anchored at the Orange Grove;  
 several more are getting ready in the rivers,  
 and, I believe, some at Algaziras. It is ra-  
 ther probable that the enemy have received  
 an account of our fleet coming here, and are  
 preparing for their destruction; they must  
 therefore keep a sharp look-out on their ar-  
 rival, or change the scene, and rush furiously  
 on the foe.

Root up their works, disperse their vaunt-  
 ing camp,

Sink ev'ry boat and ship---their forts de-  
 stroy,

Set Algaziras, and Santa Roque, in flames,  
 Strike terror and dismay to all the coast,  
 On Andalusia's province, hurl destruction,  
 And devastation spread throughout the  
 country.

O! how should we triumph to sweep  
 their camp and coast of men and cruizers,  
 that have so long prevented our receiving  
 refresh-

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 pulse



refreshing and agreeable supplies : We long 1780  
to visit the Common, at the foot of St. Nov  
Roque, to clear the ground of marquees, 30th  
tents, huts and sheds, and to let nothing re-  
main but the herbage for the cattle.

I remain

Yours; &c.

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## LETTER XIV.

GIBRALTAR.

Dear BROTHER,

**A** MIDST promised dangers, heavy la-1780  
bours, harrassing alarms, constant Dec.  
watchings, lively hopes and expectations, 1st  
I snatch a few moments to devote to your  
service. The period for the celebration of  
immortal *victory*, or *death*, hourly awaits  
us, and the glories and pomp of battle, in  
solemn steps approach : Martial honours ex-  
cite to valour, and the consideration of Bri-  
tain's cause, invigorates each bosom to re-  
pulse the combined arms of imperious Gaul  
and



1780 and proud Iberia, which glitter and adorn  
Dec. the Spanish plains.----

1st Although the God of War, with aspect  
grim,

Exulting, strides around our stubborn  
rock,----

And Slaughter, with voracious jaws ex-  
tended,

Impatient waits, to seize the fallen prey.

This forenoon signals were made, at the Spanish Watch-towers, of an enemy being to the eastward----a ship appeared, standing for the Rock, chased by two xebecs ;----two gun-boats pushed out from Algaziras, and soon got near her----a fire immediately commenced between them, and continued till she came under Europa guns, without doing each other much damage. She proves to be the Anglicana, letter of marque, of 26 guns and 80 men, from Smyrna, laden with silk. A small xebec was carried into Algaziras, with a Spanish ensign above the English ; many are of opinion that she was a Minorca vessel bound for this place.

3d Yesterday evening we had a violent storm of hail, rain, lightening and thunder ; the storm did not reach the Spanish camp, or they must have suffered considerably. Arrived a frigate at Algaziras.

4th Wind E. Last night, with a stiff breeze, the Anglicana sailed from hence, on her  
passage

passage to England: A Lieutenant embark-1780  
ed on board her with an express. Dec.

The weather having proved rainy and 5th  
boisterous these three days past, the enemy  
have not been able to execute any work on  
the isthmus, nor has any of their cruizers  
made their appearance in the Bay. The  
Governor has ordered the pavement of the  
streets to be dug up as far as Southport:  
110 inhabitants, beside the soldiery are em-  
ployed in this work, viz. 60 Roman Catho-  
licks, 30 Jews, and 20 British; the stones  
are thrown over the line wall. The inten-  
tion of this, is to prevent the havock that  
would ensue from the explosion of the ene-  
my's shells, whenever they open from their  
batteries, as the great weight they fall buries  
them under the surface of the ground, and  
when they burst, they scatter whatever is  
near them for 70 or 80 yards around.

The enemy worked very hard last night, 8th  
and greatly forwarded their approaches:--  
this morning they fired very brisk on our  
gardeners, who were forced to retire. A  
sloop from the W. has anchored on the  
other side.

We fired, this morning, by way of expe- 9th  
ment, from Old Mole Head, six ten-inch  
balls out of howitzers, one of which pe-  
netrated into the centre of the Tower bat-  
tery,

M

1780tery, and apparently set fire to it, which Dec. they soon extinguished.

9th The wind blowing strong E. and the sea too rough for the gun boats, three settees arrived from Minorca, and a brig from Leghorn, with wine and other necessaries. None of the Spanish cruisers attempted to stir.

The enemy's covered-way is greatly extended, a few nights more will bring it home to the Tower battery.

14th The enemy's covered-way is not yet completed, owing to the rough and rainy weather; they have extended it very near the East line of their Advanced work. This morning six pieces of cannon were laid in the sand behind the Old Mole. They have an elevation of 45 degrees, and it is imagined they will send shot (red hot) into the enemy's encampment and artillery park.

15th Last night the enemy completed their covered-way; they have brought it close home to the East angle of the Tower battery---- The weather having proved calm, the Spanish cruisers again cover the face of the bay.

16th The enemy last night, began another line of approach, extending from the left of the Tower battery, towards the Centre-Stone Guard-house.

Garrison orders.

" *The issues of provision for the next month*



*to be the same as last, except that only one week's Dec. oatmeal, at a pint each ration, can be spared 16th to leave the usual supply for the hospitals."*

The enemy extended their approaches 17th some yards last night, and we, with our usual liberality of shot and shells, repaid their labours. Several settees, and polacres arrived from the E. at Algaziras.

Wind W. Last night a firing was heard 21st from the offing for near an hour, which proved to be the Speedwell cutter, with dispatches from England, engaging a xebec, which was under the necessity of putting into Ceuta to repair her damages. The intelligence brought by the Speedwell, is at present kept secret.

Arrived the Hannah privateer, from Eng. 23d land, with cheese, beef, pork, butter, &c. ---a very good supply. It must sensibly aggravate Barcello, notwithstanding the attention and alertness of his armed boats and cruizers, that vessels so frequently drop in here.

This day the deserter that came in the 25th 28th of September was sent to the Provost, he being, from indubitable facts, proved a spy. Several writings were found in his possession, inscribed to a Spanish officer, together with a plan of the garrison, sewed up in a coarse cloth. Among other passages he



1780 he says, that, " Between the Advance, and Dec. Dead-man's-hole, the shore is so bold, that 25th they may bring their shipping close to the rocks and land their men from off the yards; and, after this is done, to take possession of the travelling pieces of cannon on Wind-mill-hill, draw them to the South-parade, and cannonade the town." Came in last night, the snow Kitty and Polly, from Liverpool, with butter, flour, cheese, and potatoes; the latter sells at one rial and a half per pound. Deserted, a soldier in the night.

29th This day two Moorish vessels were carried into Algaziras; it is conjectured they were destined for this place.

30th This forenoon a settee belonging to the enemy was becalmed off Europa, and our boats went out and boarded her; the crew escaped—She had two pigs and some empty casks on board. It is some time since we had the satisfaction to hoist the English colours over the Spanish.

31st This morning a Tartan laden with brandy and sugar, came in from Minorca. She brings no particular intelligence. Last night a serjeant deserted from the back of the rock.

The enemy keep attentively at work, and forward their approaches and cover'd retreats with the utmost spirit; their heavy loss of men does not discourage their operations—  
they

they seem intent and determined to capture 1780  
Gibraltar. Probably the next year, will Dec.  
decide the contest: If they should be suc- 31st  
cessful and take the garrison, it will be an  
expedition worthy of record; but we have  
not the least idea of this nature, our batteries  
are so well mounted with heavy ordnance,  
and manned with Britons, that the name of  
being conquered is laughed at as an absur-  
dity.

I am,

Dear Brother,  
Affectionately yours.

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## LETTER XV.

GIBRALTAR.

Dear BROTHER,

OUR prospect is but gloomy; the enemy 1781  
are very busy, and are still forwarding Jan.  
works of annoyance. It is conjectured as 10th  
soon as the bomb-battery is completed, that  
the

1781 the pastime will begin; but I hope, this year Jan. will terminate with victory to Old England.

10th This day under flag of truce, the two Moorish galleys, that arrived the 29th of last month, were conducted from Algaziras to this place; they have brought Consul Logie, and the British families and Jews from Tangier. We learn that hostilities are commenced by the Barbarians against us, and that the Emperor of Morroco has sold the ports of Tangier and Tetuan, to His Catholick Majesty; by this means the enemy conclude Gibraltar their own, and that famine will compel us to capitulate. I hope their expectations will be frustrated, and that in spite of the united efforts of our foes, the British ensigns will ever be kept flying here.

14th

Garrison orders.

*"The centries on the sea-line, are not to suffer any person, to land under any part of the line-wall, or upon the rocks towards the Southward, or to remain on shore there after first gun-fire, but to fire upon whoever they may discover, either on shore, or attempting to land after that time."*

15th

Last night a Spanish frigate was drove by a storm under our walls, the garrison took her for an English vessel, therefore did not fire upon her; a heavy rain coming on, and



a thick haze upon the water, she escaped 1781  
unperceived till this morning. The two Jan.  
Moorish galleys sailed from hence to the 15th  
West.

### Garrison Orders.

Ration of Provision from 15th January to  
the 11th February.

#### Officers per Month.

28lb. of bread,  
4 do. of pork,  
4 do. of beef,  
4 pints of pease,  
10 ounces of butter,  
1 and a half pound of cheese, in lieu of  
two pounds of beef.

4 pints of kidney-beans,	} in lieu of 12 pints of pease and 30 ounces of butter.
4 do. of wheat,	
3lb. of flour,	
2lb. of raisins,	

#### Hospital per Week.

7lb. of bread.  
1lb. of beef,  
1 do. of pork,  
2 and half ounces of butter,  
6 ounces of cheese, in lieu of half pound  
of beef.

1 pint



1781 Jan. 1 pint of wheat, } in lieu of 4 pints  
 3-4ths pound of flour, } pease, and 7 and a  
 1 pound of rice, } half ounces of but-  
 half pound of raisins, } ter.

3 pints of oatmeal

half pint of vinegar.

N. B. 1lb. of beef to be paid for.

Men per week.

7lb of bread

1lb of beef

1lb of pork

1 pint of pease

2 ounces and half butter

6 ounces of cheese, in lieu of half-pound  
 of beef

3-qrs lb. of flour

1 pint of wheat

1 pint kidney-beans

half-lb. raisins

1-qr pint vinegar

In lieu of 3 pints of  
 pease, and 7 and  
 half ounces butter.

N. B. 1lb. of beef and 3 pints of oatmeal to  
 be paid for.

25th Yesterday evening, a soldier deserted, sup-  
 posed from the heights of the rock.

28th Wind S. E. Arrived the Tartar, a French  
 prize, of 26 guns, from Leghorn, with wine,  
 oil, brandy, &c. She picked up at sea, the  
 Brilliant's long-boat, which make us ima-  
 gine that frigate was forced to the eastward,  
 with the strong northerly wind.

Wind

Wind E. Last night failed the Tartar 1781 privateer, (that arrived here the 18th inst.) Jan. The enemy threw several rockets from their 29th towers, and this morning we observed a xebec returning from the gut without her prey. On the land side the enemy continue their labours, nor are we remiss in annoying them. Three soldiers are missing, supposed to have deserted.

Wind S. E. Arrived a large settee and a 30th tartan from Minorca, with wine, &c. They bring word of the Brilliant's safe arrival in that port.

Wind S. W. Yesterday evening failed a 31st brig from hence, bound to Mahon with supplies. The enemy extended their approaches about five yards last night, and threw up several heaps of sand---Some infantry have marched into their camp, reported to have landed at Cadiz. Barcello remains at anchor, but his cruizers frequently come over to peep at our works, and observe the situation of our navy,

I am,

Dear Brother, yours, &c.

LETTER

N

S.

## LETTER XVI.

GIBRALTAR.

Dear BROTHER,

1781 **N**OTWITHSTANDING every effort,  
 Feb. and the most studious inventions of  
 1st. annoyance, that possibly could be adopted  
 or executed, we have hitherto found our-  
 selves inadequate to retard the progress of  
 the enemy's operations. History has parti-  
 ally recorded that cowardice generally cha-  
 racterized their conduct; but here give me  
 leave to do justice to our assailants, who have  
 invariably, from the period of their first la-  
 bours, to the present forwardness of their  
 approaches, shewn a martial spirit, and un-  
 daunted resolution.

From eve to morn their heavy works go  
 on,

And threat'ning batteries rise, 'midst  
 show'rs of shot;

Our Rock, like burning *Ætna*, red with  
 flames,

Whole volleys of destruction vomits forth;  
 While *Death*, with horrid grimace, ho-  
 vers round 'em,

And



And scenes of blood besmear their opera-1781  
tions, Feb.

Strew'd o'er with mangled limbs, and ist  
heaps of slain,

With stedfast valour, fix'd determination,  
They labour, and bring forward their  
advances.

I shall endeavour in the series of letters,  
to give every transaction, circumstance, and  
event, during the Siege, a true description  
and illustration, to array martial merit in  
fullest splendor, and to crown each distin-  
guished hero with deserving laurels.

The enemy extended another branch of  
their approaches last night, composed of fa-  
cines and sand bags.--We fired in the course  
of an hour 300 rounds of shot & shells. This  
morning a soldier deserted from the garrison.

Our men of war's boats went round to the 2d  
back of the rock this forenoon, where they  
found the bodies of the soldier (missing yes-  
terday) and the serjeant mentioned 31st of  
December last, both in a shattered condition.  
It is astonishing, notwithstanding the tre-  
mendious instances, so frequently exhibited,  
they have not sufficient terror, to prevent  
men from endeavouring to escape to the ene-  
my, even if conscience was bereft of feeling,  
and the regard for king, country, relatives,  
and friends obliterated, one would imagine  
the



1781 the consideration of self-preservation would  
Feb. alone effect it.

8th This morning at day-break, came in a deserter from the enemy: He says, "That the Spanish General has received an order to recall the working parties, in consequence of a proposition made to the Court of Great-Britain, of six million of money, and a free trade for the garrison." There is not the greatest reliance placed upon his intelligence, but looked upon as a stratagem of General Alvarez, to gain more liberty in the execution of his further projections.

11th Wind E. Arrived the Salisbury privateer, from Minorca—A large xebec, and several galleys endeavoured to slip between her and the land.

14th The enemy appear to be in agitation on the opposite side: Several signals hung out from their watch-towers, and their cruizers returning to the bay. We are in hopes that fleet is within a few leagues.

15th Wind N. W. Passed by about thirty sail of neutrals, there being a thick haze could not perceive whether they were ships of force. We suppose the signals made yesterday, was occasioned by their appearance off the coast.

Garrison

Ratio

Speci

Bread

Beef

Pork

Butte

Oil

Cheef

Pease

Beans

Whea

Rice

Raisi

Oatm

Flour

To be paid

Soft

W  
the S  
enem  
stiff

T  
norca  
wine

## Garrison orders.

Rations of provisions from Feb. 12th to the 1781  
11th March. Feb.

Species	Officers per month	Men per week	Hospital per week
Bread	28lb	7lb	7lb
Beef	4lb	1lb	1lb
Pork	4lb	1lb	1lb
Butter	10 oz.	2 & half oz.	2 & hf oz.
Oil	1 pint	1-4th pint	1-4th pint
Cheese	1 & hf lb	6 oz.	6 oz.
Pease	4 pints	1 pint	—
Beans	4 do.	1 do.	—
Wheat	4 do.	1 do.	1 pint
Rice	1 & hf lb	6 oz.	12 oz.
Raisins	1 & hf lb	6 oz.	8 oz.
Oatmeal	—	—	3 pints
Flour	—	—	12 oz.

To be paid for } Beef 4lb 1lb 1lb  
Oatmeal 12 pints 3 pints —

Soft bread the first week, buscuit afterwards  
till further orders.

Wind strong E. About eleven last night, :8th  
the Salisbury got under sail:—None of the  
enemy's cruizers were out on account of the  
stiff breeze.

This afternoon a brig arrived from Mi- 19th  
norca, in four days and a half, with flour,  
wine, sugar and brandy: Two xebecs, in  
vain

1781 vain, stretched across, but could not get Feb. near her, the wind blowing very strong. She brings the intelligence that the French have blockaded Minorca.

21st Last night came in another brig from Minorca. It must greatly chagrin Barcello, to view the shipping drop in so providentially, and he incapable of detaching his cruizers to the East. Very stiff breezes continued since the 18th inst.

27th Last night, a Genoese brig (as reported) with four hands, slipped over from Algaziras, having a few trifling articles on board. The manner of her coming, and the smallness of her cargo, rather excites a suspicion. The Governor ever attentive to the preservation and safety of the garrison, and dubious of the legality of the crew's intention, has ordered a guard to mount on board her daily, until the affair is more thoroughly investigated.

28th Last night, under a very brisk fire, the enemy threw up a great quantity of sand upon their fascine works---It is supposed their approaches are about 20 feet high.---We this day directed our fire to the West entrance of the lines, as many covered carts have been observed passing there.

This month has finished without being productive of the desired success: It is to be

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be hoped, that the next will conduce to 1781  
the gratification of our wishes, in the ex-Feb.  
tirpation of our foes.

I remain

Your affectionate Brother.

---

L E T T E R XVII.

GIBRALTAR.

Dear BROTHER,

**E**XPERIMENTS of every contrivance, 1781  
are now in agitation. *Art* and *inge*-Mar.  
*nuty*, which have been long employed for 5th  
the preservation and knowledge of mankind,  
are now studying their annihilation. *Qua*-  
*drants*, *spirit-levels*, and instruments of va-  
rious forms and machinery, adorn the batte-  
ries, for the more exact and certain method  
of *killing*. Every one seems anxious to find  
out, the safest, quickest, and surest method  
of *dispatch*, in the elevation and depression  
of the ordnance. I suppose in a few week's  
more



1781 more practice, they'll be so expert in level. Mar.ing a gun, that should a Spaniard raise his head above the epaulement, it will be immediately severed from his shoulders! The gamester, with stedfast eyes, fixed on the cast of the dice, never depended more on the goddess *Fortune*, than the several artists do for the success and approbation of their slaughtering inventions.

Now *ELLIOTT's heroes*, zealous to destroy,  
Against the *foe* their *arts*! and *arms*! employ;

Allur'd by *hope* the Spanish *forts* to gain,  
And drive those num'rous *legions* from  
yon plain.

Wind E. Last night arrived a settee from Minorca, with sundry useful articles for the garrison: The Patron relates, that three French frigates are constantly cruizing off the harbour, to prevent succours going in or coming out of that place.

7th This morning a little before the new guard came to relieve the old Landport guard, a soldier on duty there, jumped over the pallisadoes, near the gate, and ran off. The several guards fired 1143 musquet shot at him, beside grape, but could not ascertain his being wounded. He entered the Spanish lines in triumph, yet there is not any doubt but he received several shot.

Yesterday

Yesterday and this day, we had several 1788  
hours artillery practice on the batteries at Mar.  
the enemy's works;--the ordnance was well 9th  
directed--much success is promised from the  
merit of the several instruments under con-  
sideration. The enemy, with great earnest-  
ness, became spectators, from Forts St. Phil-  
ippe and Barbary, as our guns only played  
upon the advanced works on the isthmus.

Garrison orders. 11th

*"The rations of provisions from 12th March  
to the 8th April, the same as last month, ex-  
cept that no wheat will be delivered, but one  
pint of pease weekly will be paid for."*

Wind E. Came in a polacre and a tartan, 16th  
from Minorca, with wine and brandy--The  
latter received several shot from one of the  
enemy's galleys that endeavoured to cut her  
off. The enemy on the land-side are very  
attentive to their employ: We fire pretty  
hot upon them, as we are of opinion they  
are mounting ordnance in their advanced  
works. Yesterday, a soldier deserted from  
the garrison.

Arrived a Tuscan polacre, and the Tartar 18th  
butter from Minorca, with brandy and car-  
avances. A xebec stood over from Ceuta,  
but too late to prevent their entrance.

Yesterday

1781 Yesterday evening, the Tuscan polacre Mar. failed on her passage to Lisbon, but the ene-  
22d my took her in the night, and this morning carried her into Algaziras.

26th Came in a half-xebec, (a prize) taken by one of the Minorca privateers. She says, the French frigates so closely watch the entrance into the harbour, that it is almost impossible for a vessel, coming in or going out, to escape.

29th Last night, (wind W. N. W.) the Enterprize frigate failed from hence, on her passage to Minorca. The repeated intelligence, of the French having blockaded that port, occasioned her departure, and we flatter ourselves, when she arrives there, our force will be equal to theirs, the Brilliant and Minorca frigates being already on that station.---

This forenoon a brig, half-bay over, was taken by the enemy's cruizers, --- the crew, being nine in number, escaped in a boat --- they mention, " That the British fleet had twice put to sea, but was forced to return, owing to bad weather and contrary winds." They brought some poultry in their boat, which will afford them a present supply---

31st the fowls sold for four dollars each, equal to twelve shillings and nine-pence; pigeons, three dollars per couple, equal to nine shillings and seven-pence; ducks, eight dollars four shillings per couple, equal to one pound



fix shillings and fix pence. Every species<sup>1781</sup> of provision is sold at the same rate, and most of the salt meat is quite rotten, the very smell of it is sufficient for a meal.

I am,

Dear Brother,

Affectionately yours,

## LETTER XVIII.

### GIBRALTAR.

Dear BROTHER,

**T**HE garrison are noisy with tumultuous<sup>1781</sup> joy, occasioned by the arrival of a cut-Apr. ter last night from the W. who brings the 3d captivating and enlivening intelligence of our fleet being on their passage for the Mediterranean. We seem to be another people--the very atmosphere is changed--no depression of spirits--every countenance is adorned with satisfactory smiles---a social greeting of friends and acquaintances, with overwhelming extacy, accost each other, "Dear friend, all our wants will shortly be supplied."

This



1781 This morning two fire-ships were removed from Algaziras towards Cabritta Point,

3<sup>d</sup> intended by the enemy to run in among our fleet: Three others are at Orange Grove, and several ready in the rivers. We are rather apprehensive of their being a great annoyance to our shipping.

4<sup>th</sup> Last night sailed the St. Firmin sloop, the Brilliant's tender, and a settee, for Minorca. Two xebecs immediately put to sea in pursuit of them, with a fine breeze at W.--- The enemy are very busy on the opposite side, in getting their fire ships out of the rivers.

6<sup>th</sup> This evening four armed boats, composed of a detachment of five men from each regiment, under the command of a naval officer, proceeded from the New Mole, on an expedition, to cut out the two fire ships which lay at anchor under Cabritta. It continued rainy and cloudy till they had got within a mile of them, when, on a sudden, the clouds dispersed, and Luna reflected so great a light, that they were under the necessity of returning without accomplishing the business, the enemy having discovered the boats, and made a position of defence.

Rations

Rations

Speci

Beef

Pork

Butte

Raisin

Pease

Beans

Wheat

Rice

Oil

Tobacco

Bread

Wine

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*Rations of provisions from 9th of April to 1780  
the 6th of May.*

Species	Officers per month	Men per week	Hospital per week
Beef	3lb 4 oz.	13 ounces	13 ounces
Pork	4lb 8 oz.	18 do	18 do.
Butter	10 oz.	2 $\frac{1}{2}$ half oz.	2 $\frac{1}{2}$ hf oz.
Raisins	3lb	12 oz.	12 oz.
Pease	2 pints	hf pint	—
Beans	4 do.	1 do.	1 pint
Wheat	4 do.	1 do.	1 do.
Rice	1 do	4 oz.	8 ounces
Oil	1 pint	1-4th pint	1-4th pint

To be paid for.	Beef	3lb	1lb $\frac{1}{2}$ qr	1lb $\frac{1}{2}$ qr
	Pease	4 pints	1 pint	—
	Oatmeal	12 do.	3 do.	—

*Bread issued to officers and men 1lb and half  
every two days.*

Wind W. About eleven this forenoon Apr. we discovered a small sail under the Barbary 8th shore. About two the enemy's Squadron weighed and stood for her, consisting of one xebec, one galley, one cutter, and fifteen large gun-boats, mounting 26 pounders; as soon as they had reached her, they opened furiously, both with round and grape shot, which she as briskly and heroically returned---broadside for broadside continued until she got under cover of the guns, when she received

1781 received repeated and loud huzzas from the Apr. garrison. It is remarkable, notwithstanding the heavy cannonade, not a man was killed, and only a few wounded. She proves to be the Eagle cutter from Glasgow, but brings no account about the fleet.

12th Last night, between eleven and twelve o'clock, came in the Kite cutter; she being challenged by the officer of the Mole guard, loudly answered, "from the fleet," which immediately spread like wild-fire throughout the garrison; Morpheus resigned his sovereignty, and slumber was forgotten; each found sufficient employ and satisfaction in conversing on the interesting subject.--- We conjectured in the evening the British fleet was near at hand, as the enemy's towers and coast were greatly illuminated, and a number of rockets thrown up at Cabritta.--- At six this morning, the fleet appeared as thick as a wood, standing for the garrison, with a gentle breeze at S. W. a shout of joy instantly ensued from every corner, battery, and height, on the discovery.--- About nine, eighteen of the enemy's gun-boats sallied out from Algaziras, but kept pretty well under the land; at ten they began a brisk fire from the boats and battery at the point, upon our shipping;--two frigates bore down upon them, and played so warmly, that the enemy made to land. The battery at Sand-bay, and the Island at Algaziras (mounted with



with 42 pounders) endeavoured to annoy our shipping, but to little purpose, as most of their shot fell wide. One ship has just dropt anchor.---A call to arms prevents my further writing, the enemy have opened all their batteries on the town; confusion and consternation are every where to be seen!-- Adieu, dear brother, I must hasten to the alarm post.

### Six o'Clock in the Evening.

The necessary dispositions having been made by the General, for the defence of the place, I again re-assume the subject, on the several transactions of the day: The few moments I have unemployed from duty, I shall endeavour, as far as the noise of rattling cannon and exploding shells will permit, to give you a description. The British fleet are safe arrived, with England's banners triumphantly



in triumphantly flying. (Admirals Derby, Apr. Digby, and Ross, are in the Bay, and the 12th Spanish batteries blazing like a volcano.

About a quarter before twelve, the enemy opened from their forts, lines, and advanced works upon the town, with shot and shells. Some of them nearly came into the New Mole, a sloop lying near the Tanks, was sunk by one, providentially the hands were saved.---Accounts are just received, that a shell which exploded in Prince's-Lines wounded an officer, and tore the serjeant's hand off on duty there---three men killed in King's-lines; one killed at South-Port, by a piece of a shell that burst in the air. Several houses are on fire---the enemy are endeavouring to burn the transports and merchants shipping, but our men of war keep cruizing off Europa. A shell which entered a house in Southport-street, in the explosion, blew a Genoese woman out of the window, but fortunately she did not receive any other damage than a bruise by the fall. The inhabitants exhibit the most impetuous grief and apprehension, precipitately retreating to the southward of the rock for shelter, crowding upon each other like flocks of sheep destined for the slaughter-house, with dead and ghastly amazement pictured on their countenance. The Romans count their beads

beads, and worship their idols, and with a fervency of devotion, supplicate their mol-ten deaf images, for protection and safety. 12th

What horrors are productive from the wars?

And miseries the most acute, are found:

A husband hastily torn from his wife,

And innocents bereft of their protectors;

The ties of friendship in a twinkling broke---

Where troubles were appeas'd, and sorrows lost,

Where joys were shar'd, and crosses were exchang'd,

Where pleasures were imparted, pains were eas'd;

Where all the joys of sentiment and union,

Connubial happiness and social bliss,

Upon the basis of content resided--

Shook into atoms by the angry God!

Like to an earthquake, when her jaws doth ope,

Whole towns and cities swallow in an instant!

Thus warriors for fame and glory fight,

And for their country forfeit each delight.

1781 An incessant fire all night from the ene-  
 Apr. my's works;—showers of shot and shells as  
 13th thick as hail--two soldiers, and a boy of a  
 wine-house, not two minutes ago, were kil-  
 led by the bursting of a shell near Southport.  
 The inhabitants are terrified to the utmost,  
 and destitute of every place of shelter. I  
 cannot authentically learn the number alrea-  
 dy fallen, but in a town situate like this, it  
 cannot be inconsiderable. We retaliate with  
 equal warmth upon the foe, who conse-  
 quently are not exempt from a share in the  
 direful slaughter. The town is deserted by  
 all but the soldiery, who now are left to  
 commence merchants, wine-men, butchers,  
 bakers, &c. Here a shell blows off the roof  
 of a wine house, the troops haste to partake  
 of the consuming spoil, regardless of life or  
 limb, they drink briskly round, "Destruc-  
 tion to the enemy." Here are parties boil-  
 ing, baking, roasting, frying, &c. Turkeys,  
 ducks, geese and fowls, become the diet of  
 those, who, some days ago, were eagerly  
 soliciting a hard crust of bread---Every pig  
 they meet, receives a ball or bayonet, and  
 this is performed with an unconcern and  
 calmness scarce to be credited, amidst a hea-  
 vy fire, disregarding the supreme jurisdiction  
 of the mighty God of War. Thus they

roll



roll in plenty at the hazard of their lives, 1781  
 nor can the precautions and vigilance of the Apr.  
 officers, prevent them from profusely enjoy- 13th  
 ing the varieties of a town once flourishing  
 and peopled, brilliant in commercial and  
 military affairs: From Waterport to South-  
 port houses are blazing, and shot battering  
 down those that will not burn. The ele-  
 ment appears in a conflagration, as if JEHO-  
 VAH had summoned the guilty world to ap-  
 pear in his awful presence, darting his angry  
 thunder-bolts to send them to swift destruc-  
 tion, flashing of guns, mortars, howitzers,  
 and exploding shells. One minute a shot  
 batters a house about your ears, and the  
 next a shell drops at your feet; here you  
 lay prostrate, waiting the mercy of the ex-  
 plosion:--If you escape unhurt, you are  
 perfectly stunned, and almost suffocated with  
 an intollerable stench of powder and com-  
 position:--On every hand slaughtered objects  
 lay before us, harrowing up the tender feel-  
 ings of the soul; one looses an arm or leg,  
 another cut through the body, a third has  
 his head smashed, and a fourth is blown to  
 pieces, with the bursting of a shell. Thus  
 in a moment do they launch into eternity,  
 probably without time to utter the ejacula-  
 tion, "God be merciful to me." Blood,  
 cries,



1781 cries, groans, wounds and contusions, in Apr. in every part are to be seen and heard !--

13th Indulgent parents lamenting the loss of sons, and women and children for husbands and fathers. Here we behold passions unfeigned, grief without mockery, and distress without a veil !

A detachment is ordered to march, to reinforce a part of the works considered too weak for a strong attack, or to relieve another who have stood 24 hours facing an inveterate foe ; probably before they reach the post, my comrade falls by my side, and with a tender regret gazes on me, while I push forward to the battery or guard, and leave him to groan out his last accents, weltering in blood !--My acquaintance receives a wound, and my best of friends looses the arm that was ever ready to cherish and supply. Sympathetic feeling melts my soul ! I dare not weep, but assuming the aspect of a ferocious savage, I trip it away minutely expecting nature's dissolution. Pangs, sufferings, and bleeding spectacles, with a military man, is denied operation : probably with a bosom overloaded with the most poignant grief and anguish, a heart pierced with excruciating woes, you sally forth to meet

meet the daring foe, you receive a wound—178:  
 you are left to bleed--the foe pursues--your Apr.  
 detachment retreats--you find Death busy--13th  
 the lamp of life faintly burns--your friends  
 are absent--the foe shews no tenderness--  
 you sigh, weep, groan, pray, beg, intreat,  
 and in the bitter agonies implore Almighty  
 God to be merciful to a poor sinner--life  
 hangs on a hair--the cordage of your heart  
 cracks, and you drop into an unknown  
 world, where the secrets of all hearts are  
 disclosed. Your body, which once was  
 costly arrayed in fashionable attire, is denied  
 the form of christian burial, rich and poor,  
 without discrimination, are tumbled into a  
 hole or ditch, a prey for worms and crawl-  
 ing insects.

A husband is called upon for duty, the  
 service demands his immediate presence, nor  
 dare he stay to take his farewell, by imprint-  
 ing an affectionate kiss; the thundering  
 Mars, envious of his felicity, raises the ja-  
 velin for destruction, and levels his commi-  
 serating partner, while he is absent; not  
 satisfied with lopping off so material a branch  
 of happiness, but extends his decisive com-  
 mands over their tender offspring. On his  
 return (O sensibility) what a ravaging scene  
 is

1781 is presented to his view! let imagination  
 Apr. conceive;--a wife that soothed his every  
 13th uneasiness, and softened the rigours of his  
 fate, alas! no more--His dear beloved chil-  
 dren that prattled with a thousand innocent  
 and engaging smiles, and lisped forth their  
 duteous accents, that tended to dissipate the  
 heart corroding cares of life, and promising  
 to be a comfort in his aged days, are now  
 reduced to a lifeless lump of clay. Will  
 not his heart break forth in exclamation,  
*" Oh! my beloved wife--my charming Harry,  
 my amiable Polly;--not suffered to kiss those  
 lips white warm, nor to press you to a bosom  
 to which you was ever dear."*

What inexpressible anguish must the per-  
 formers feel in the trying scenes and tragical  
 exhibitions, delineated with the most de-  
 scriptive wretchedness and misery. This  
 must move pity in every heart, if not steeled  
 against every humanizing principle, nor  
 will imagination allow the suggestion, that  
 those who reside at home, enjoying the de-  
 liciousness of life, encompassed with every  
 agreeable variety, and blest with sweets un-  
 tasted, can refuse their MITE, either of  
 coin or friendship, to the soldier, who re-  
 turns from the wars, to his native shore,  
 enobled



enobled with scars, and festering sores, or 1781  
amputated members, the grand ensigns of Apr.  
martial honors.

The enemy continue the bombardment. 14th  
Many soldiers killed and wounded: It is  
computed they fire about 3000 shot and  
shells every 24 hours. Many houses are  
blown to pieces with the shells, and others  
burnt down. This forenoon eleven gun  
boats began a fire upon our shipping, and  
carried away the fore-top-mast of one of  
the men of war. These insect swarm  
of gun-boats, contribute their quota to  
render our days and nights infinitely mise-  
rable and alarming, seizing on our retired  
hours like nightly robbers, who fill the  
mind with the most agonizing apprehension,  
awakening us from the repose wearied nature  
indulges, and before you can scarce open  
your eyes or enquire the cause of the alarm,  
you behold horror staring you in the face,  
or feel a precious limb miserably mangled,  
or hastily torn away.

How distressing this! no place of safety!  
not one spot, but these furies claiming pre-  
eminence with the infernal powers, discharge  
volleys of shocking misery. Overpowered  
with fatigue, you must watch, for if you close  
your



1781 your eyes, you may probably awake in the  
Apr. arms of the *grim King of Terrors*.

15th The fleet have not come to anchor yet ;--  
the enemy's fire is kept up with great spirit,  
and has done considerable damage to the up-  
per batteries--we fire in return. It is dis-  
tressing to humanity to view the situation of  
the inhabitants, who have fled from the town  
to seek shelter upon the heights of the rock,  
with only a thin piece of canvas or sail cloth  
to screen them from the scorching heat by  
day, and excessive dews at night ; not any  
conveniency of dressing their diet, and the  
inexpressible anguish of viewing their houses  
and property in flames : Many of them, in  
endeavouring to save part of their effects,  
have lost their lives, and others maimed. A  
corporal had his head shot off as he was call-  
ing from a window to a man in the street.  
A soldier was so miserably torn by a shell,  
that he could not be known only by his dress.  
A Genevese youth, endowed with every grace  
and amiable qualification, on the point of  
nuptial celebration, was unfortunately killed,  
to the irremovable grief of his enamourato,  
A shot killed two soldiers, one of which was  
brushing his shoes for guard. Our people  
are assiduous unloading the shipping, as the  
fleet

fleet is not intended to remain long here. 1781  
We work day and night to get the provision Apr.  
landed; one party works from sun-rise to 15th  
sun-set, and another from sun-set till sun-  
rise, The town is laid in a state of desolati-  
on, the greatest part burnt down to the  
ground.

I cannot, dear Brother, omit penning an  
entertaining conversation I had with a sol-  
dier in Irish-town yesterday. I met Jack  
Careless in the street, singing with uncom-  
mon glee, (notwithstanding the enemy were  
firing with prodigious warmth) part of the  
old song,

“ A soldier’s life, is a merry life,

“ From care and trouble free.”

He ran to me with eagerness, and pre-  
senting his bottle, cry’d, “ D--n me, if I  
don’t like fighting: I’d like to be ever tan-  
ning the Dons:---Plenty of good liquor for  
carrying away--never was the price so cheap  
---fine stuff---enough to make a miser quit  
his gold.” Why, Jack, says I, what have  
you been about? With an arch grin, he re-  
plied, “ That would puzzle a Heathen  
philosopher, or yearly almanack maker, to  
unriddle—I scarce know myself. I have  
been constantly on foot and watch, half  
starv’d, and without money, facing a parcel  
of

1781 of pitiful Spaniards. I have been fighting, Apr. wheeling, marching, and counter-marching; 15th sometimes with a firelock, then a handspike, and now my bottle (brandishing it in the air.) I am so pleased with the melody of great guns, that I consider myself as a Roman General, gloriously fighting for my country's honor and liberty." A shell that instant burst, a piece of which knocked the bottle out of his hand; with the greatest composure, he replied, (having first graced it with an oath) "This is not any loss, I have found a whole cask, by good luck," and brought me to view his treasure. But, Jack, says I, are you not thankful to God, for your preservation? "How do you mean, (he answered) fine talking of God with a soldier, whose trade and occupation is cutting throats: Divinity and slaughter sound very well together, they gingle like a crack'd bell in the hand of a noisy cryer: Our King is answerable to God for us, I fight for him; my religion consists in a fire-lock, open touch-hole, good flint, well rammed charge, and seventy rounds of powder and ball: This is military creed. Come, comrade, drink success to the British arms." On my asking him for a glass, he seemed surprised, "Why (says he) you may well know there is not any but broken glasses to be had, but here is something that will do as well, (and he took



took up a piece of a shell) Here is a cup<sup>1781</sup>  
 fit for a Monarch, this was not purchased Apr.  
 with gold or friendship, but with the streams<sup>15th</sup>  
 of our countrymens' blood." Having filled  
 the piece of shell, he gave it to me to drink.  
 Come Jack, (said I) Here is King George  
 and victory! "And he that would not drink  
 the same, (replied Jack) I'd give him an  
 ounce of lead to pay Charon to ferry him  
 over the river Styx." I left him enjoying  
 the spoil, and really felt a sensible pleasure  
 in the recollection.

I am,

Dear Brother,

Affectionately yours.

Garrison orders.

<sup>15th</sup>

"Full allowance of beef and pork, 5 oun-  
 ces of butter, quarter of a pint oil, one pint  
 pease, one do. kidney beans, two pints of wheat,  
 twelve ounces of raisins, to be served to-mor-  
 row.

LETTER



## LETTER XIX.

## GIBRALTAR.

Dear BROTHER,

1781 THE enemy keep up a vigorous bom-  
 Apr. bardment upon us. Our town is al-  
 19th most become a heap of ruins, and what few  
 houses are left standing, the walls are so  
 shattered, that it is not safe to go into them.  
 The inhabitants are constructing temporary  
 shades, some in the gullies between Buena  
 Vista and Europa, others on Windmill-hill,  
 nor is there scarce any part of the Rock out  
 of reach of the enemy's fire by land, but what  
 is covered over either with marquees, tents,  
 or huts. The regiments whose quarters in  
 town were destroyed, are now encamped at  
 the Southward; a reinforcement of officers  
 and men are every night detached to town,  
 exclusive of the daily guards, as we are held  
 in expectation of a speedy visit from the foe;  
 General Elliott is prepared to receive them,  
 with military politeness, nor has he sparing-  
 ly provided for their reception, an excellent  
 repast of shells, of different sizes;--round

LETTER

and

and grape shot, hand grenades, carcasses, 1781 &c. are ready to be served up at the shortest Apr. notice, for the entertainment of General 19th Alvarez, and his hectoring troops.

Last night a man deserted from Princes-Lines, where he was on guard.

This forenoon arrived a ship from the W. 20th Admiral Barcello is very quiet on the opposite side, nor has he endeavoured to run in any of the fire ships among our fleet. Our men of war continue in motion, which very much disconcerts the enemy, in the plans they had adopted for destruction. The fire-ships which lay at Cabritta, are removed to Algaziras, where the Spanish squadron have hauled close under the land: The fire from their lines and isthmus continues without intermission, excepting from twelve to two o'clock at noon, when they rather slacken to cool their ordnance, at which time General Elliott takes the opportunity of relieving all the town guards.

Wind N. E. This forenoon Admiral 21st Derby made signal for sail; --- several vessels got under weigh from Rossia, and in the evening they were all out of sight: The Spanish towers, as usual, spread the alarm; The enemy discharged their ordnance with great fury, intimating that now our floating castles were departed, they had nothing to obstruct the exercise of their malignant rage.

They

178 They have damaged our works in several Apr. parts, which we as carefully repair during 21st the course of the night. We have not, as yet, lost many men in the execution of our operations.

23d The enemy continue their brisk fire on the garrison, and this day Lieut. Cunningham of the 39th regiment was much wounded, it is imagined by the faculty, it will will prove mortal. The following officers have been wounded since the enemy opened upon us:

Lieut. Boag, Royal Artillery,

Ensign Martin, 39th,

Lieut. Budworth, 72d,

Surgeon Chisholm, 56th,

And Surgeon's Mate Kruger, of De la Mott's Regts.

They are all in a fair way of recovery, except Surgeon Chisholm, who has had a leg amputated.

24th This day a thirteen-inch shell fired from the enemy's works, dropped in the King's bastion, and wounded seven men; three of them in a very bad condition.---Our batteries are rather remiss in returning the fire, reserving the ammunition for other purposes.

27th Wind E. Arrived from Minorca, the Brilliant, Porcupine, Enterprize, and Minorca frigates, two small xebecs prizes, and sixteen



sixteen sail of tartans and settees, with 11781 supply of wine, biscuit, carravances, &c. Apr. for government account. Adiniral Barcello, 27th no doubt, was desperately enraged at the arrival of this unexpected convoy: After having loosed his sails and made every appearance of putting to sea, he fired a gun, which was answered at Ceuta, as a signal for them to keep a more sharp look out to the Eastward---his sails were then nimbly furled again.

Came in two deserters from the enemy's Walloon Guards. They bring the intelligence that the Spaniards are expeditiously getting in readineis scaling ladders, and all necessary equipments for an attack, and that in a few months we may depend upon being vigourfly stormed both by land and sea. This is looked upon as contemptible presumption, for Britons! whilst led on by veteran chiefs, and gallant heroes, will ever defend these envied battlements and walls from Spain's approaches, and compel them to return after all their pomp and parade, amidst disgust, and disappointment of the desired glory. The enemy's gun and mortar boats came over last night, and fired upon the inhabitants retreats, and the troops encampments; on this occasion, a soldier's wife was killed, as she was hastily dressing herself in the tent,



17<sup>th</sup> in order to seek some place of refuge. Some Apr. others were slightly wounded.

28<sup>th</sup> This morning, there being a calm sea, the gun and mortar boats gave us a pretty smart fire. The garrison and shipping kept up a brisk cannonade upon them, but unfortunately they killed one soldier, and wounded six others of different regiments. They fired between two and 300 rounds.

At ten o'clock this forenoon, a party assembled at the lower extremity of the Old Mole Head (or Devil's Tongue) to make an experiment of reaching the Spanish camp, from two sea-mortars planted there. The first shell we threw fell within a few yards of the East angle of their grand magazine, which seemed to fill the enemy with consternation, not imagining it was practicable to have annoyed them in that part from the garrison, the distance being 3956 yards. We threw several, which fell in different parts of their encampment--one burst in the air about half way, the splinters of which were seen to fall near the shore, above the battery, [now called the Black Battery] on the right of St. Phillipe. It is reported, the intention of this is, to convince the enemy, that we shall be able to repay the compliment upon their encampment, whenever their boats visit ours.

The southward heights of the garrison were

were lined with a great number of the in-1781  
habitants, who willingly became spectators, Apr.  
(out of the reach of danger) of the experi-28th  
mental exhibition, impatiently waiting the  
discharge; but when they perceived the  
shell fall upon the Spanish land, they repeat-  
edly gave loud acclamations, happy in their  
minds that we had found out a means of  
annoying the enemy's camp.

Wind E. Last night sailed the Enterprize 29th  
and Minorca frigates, for England, with  
several other ships under convoy: The ene-  
my have not detached any of their shipping  
from Algaziras, in pursuit of them. A sig-  
nal was observed this morning on the Tower  
at Cabritta, which we imagine was intended to  
alarm the cruizers at Cadiz. Admiral Bar-  
cello seems less attentive in watching the  
port, as very few of his cruizers are out.  
From the land side we are plentifully sup-  
plied with shot & shells; their batteries conti-  
nue raging nearly the whole 24 hours of each  
day: The enemy are profusely liberal, and  
with an unexampled generosity repay the  
cannonade.

Yours, &c.

R. LETTER

## LETTER XX.

GIBRALTAR.

Dear BROTHER,

1781 **A** MIDST the clamour of war, shells  
 May bursting, shot flying, and houses  
 1st burning, a continual scene of sulphur,  
 smoke, and fire; whenever I have any hours  
 unemployed from duty, I dedicate them to  
 your service; Death minutely stares me in  
 the face, and therefore what I write, you  
 may look upon as the sincere sentiments of  
 my bosom. The streets of the town are like  
 a desert, and almost every house burnt, or  
 torn with shot and shells: In some parts the  
 shot and broken pieces of shells are so thick,  
 that in walking your feet does not touch the  
 ground. The enemy have kept up a fire  
 these 20 days past, and it is believed. before  
 they cease, our small arms will be busily em-  
 ployed. The enemy's gun and mortar boats  
 are firing from the bay; a shell which now  
 burst forced me to run with my papers in  
 my hand, to avoid danger---The groans of  
 one



one in misery has reached my ears---I must 1781  
 haste to his assistance. On my going to the May  
 other side of a traverse, I found a soldier 1st  
 with both legs broke, by a piece of the shell  
 which occasioned my retreat!--a miserable  
 spectacle. The gun boats are gone, having  
 fired about 300 rounds at the southward. I  
 don't hear of any particular damage done.

This forenoon a soldier was executed for 5th  
 plunder, at the place where the fact was  
 committed, with a label upon his breast  
 denoting the same. He was left hanging  
 till sun-set.

The gun and mortar boats paid us a gene- 8th  
 ral salute; the garrison and shipping made  
 a return:---happily not any damage was  
 done.

This day the enemy made a shameful sea- 12th  
 attack, after near two hours discharge of  
 their ordnance, they triumphantly retreated  
 to spread their great exploits and bold at-  
 achievements along their coast, without hav-  
 ing thrown a shot or shell on shore. We  
 imagine that they must have suffered consi-  
 derably on the 8th from our fire.

The gun and mortar boats last night again 13th  
 disturbed us with their firing, but only da-  
 maged a few huts in our encampment.  
 These nocturnal expeditions are of great an-  
 noyance to the garrison, as the duty of the  
 soldiery is very fatiguing, being constantly  
 on



1781 on foot for 6 or 7 days and nights together, May and probably, when it comes to their turn 13th to have a night to rest in, these common disturbers make their appearance. It is really lamentable that we cannot adopt a means of destroying them.

20th Last night a man was discovered advancing in slow steps towards the garrison, on the road leading from Bay-side to Landport, but when he came pretty near the advanced guard, he crawled upon his hands and knees; a Hanoverian serjeant on duty there, challenged him before he came as far as the work, upon which, he made a retreat. Lieutenant Witham of the 58th regiment, immediately made a sally, and being pretty nimble, soon came up with him, but just as he was going to make a blow, he unfortunately fell into a shell hole, which gave the other time to push through Bay-side. A gold laced hat was picked up on the road, which makes us imagine that he was an officer in the enemy's service, who had come to view the situation of the place, and how far a detachment might advance in the night before they would be discovered. Our guards in the lines fired pretty briskly, and was very near killing our own officer.

26th The gun and mortar boats came over last night, and gave the camp a very brisk salute. Several

Several people were killed & wounded. The 1781 New Mole, Parson's Lodge, Buena-Vista, & May South Bastion, fired remarkably warm upon 26th. them, but could not make them desist: When their ammunition was all expended, they then took their leave. A shell from the Mill Tower Battery, fell into a house at the back of South Shed Guard, and killed a child, wounded a man and two women:—The man is in so dangerous a way, that his life is despaired of. I cannot close this account without informing you, that the mother of the above child, was killed on the 28th of April, by the fire of the gun-boats, and that the husband is almost disconsolate for their loss.

This day two soldiers were executed at 29th the White Convent for plunder. The town guards, by order of the Governor, marched past, while they were hanging.

This day another soldier was executed for 30th the same crime. The General is a very humane man, but cannot overlook so great an infringement of martial law. It is amazing that men should sport away their existence for the gratification of their sensual appetites, as the crimes for which they all suffered, was for plundering the King's stores of provision and liquor. I hope that these examples will be sufficient to deter the unthinking

1781 thinking part from committing the same May acts.

30th The enemy's fire is not so brisk as at the first; they are pretty moderate during the day, but at night play very freely: It is asserted they don't fire above 16 or 1800 rounds per diem. Since my last the following officers have been wounded:

Lieut. Willington, Royal Artillery,

Lieuts. Lowe and Thorton, of the 12th,

And Capt. Foulis, of the 73d regiments.

N. B. Lieut. Cunnyngnam, 39th regiment, died of his wounds the 6th inst.

We are in continual expectation of being stormed by the enemy, but we begin to be so inured to dangers, that the sound of it is no more regarded than an old tale. Wishing you every joy, peace, and contentment, I subscribe myself

Your affectionate Brother.

LETTER



## LETTER XIX.

## GIBRALTAR.

Dear BROTHER,

IT is all the pleasure I have in writing to you, and receiving letters from you. June 1781. The enemy keep their usual warm fire on the garrison, and we are hourly waiting their assault. You are far out of the reach of danger, you may sleep contented, nor dread a vigorous fire of 13 inch shells, and 26 pound shot, which here we are continually supplied and entertained with. I assure you the Dons, in this respect, evidence a martial taste, and are beyond belief liberal.

Yesterday evening we made a prize of a Neapolitan brig. Our batteries fired at her, which obliged her to come in, she having received several shot. She is laden with flour, consigned to the enemy :-----We brought her into the New Mole.

This morning, at two o'clock, the Spanish gun and mortar boats came over, and fired upwards of 300 rounds, and then retired; two soldiers were wounded, but not dangerously;



1781 dangerously; they damaged several of the June huts: We fired a number of shells which 1st burst in the air over them---it is conjectured they must have suffered considerably. On the land side, the enemy fired excessive hard all the night, such repeated volleys that it was impossible to distinctly tell how many guns were discharged each time; they have greatly shattered our works, but they cannot abate our spirits, *Courage is Britain's Prerogative.*

Garrison orders.

*Provisions as usual, except that for one lb. of beef three quarters of a lb. of cheese will be issued weekly.*

4th This morning the royal standard was hoisted on the flag staff, and at noon we gave the enemy a royal salute with shot, in honor to His Majesty's birth day. The Spanish working parties were busily employed on the isthmus, strengthening and repairing their works.

9th This morning, a magazine belonging to the enemy, on the rising ground under the Queen's Chair, took fire, consisting of ready prepared shells: There was a great explosion, and it is computed near 5000 shells were destroyed besides many lives lost. It is incredible to believe the joy and transports exhibited

hibited by the British soldiery, while death mingled with the enemy. 1781 June

This morning a boat, under flag of truce, came over from Algaziras, to enquire the cause of our firing at a neutral vessel yesterday. It is currently reported that the General returned a British answer, "That they must either keep out of the reach of his guns, or bring to, if required." The enemy made another sea-attack with their gun and mortar boats, but received a smart repulse. I believe they did not relish our play, as we gave them a plentiful distribution of shells, which burst over their heads. Not any damage done on shore.

This forenoon a flag of truce brought over the women and children that were taken by the enemy, in the ships that sailed from hence the 29th April. They have detained the crews in order that they may have the less opposition when they make their attack.

#### Garrison Orders.

Provisions from Monday next the 18th of June, till further orders.

7lb of bread, 4 of which will be soft, and 3 of biscuit; 1lb and half beef, 1lb pork, 12 ounces cheese, 6 ounces butter, quarter pint of oil, 4 pints of pease, and 3 pints of oatmeal, per week.

S

This

1781. This morning the enemy's gun and mortar boats, discharged about 250 rounds, 25th without effecting any other damage, than blowing up several huts and tents. The batteries most convenient to annoy them, played very briskly.

26th Wind E. Last night sailed a ship with several invalids, under the care of Capt Colt, 12th regiment, for England. The enemy it is imagined, did not perceive her going out.

The Neapolitan, mentioned the first of June, was condemned here, as a lawful prize, and agents are accordingly appointed until his Majesty's pleasure is known.

30th

Garrison orders.

*"The same quantity and species of provision, to be issued next month, as last."*

The enemy keep at work---they seem to be extending a branch towards the West shore. They continue the Siege by land, with as much fury as ever. Admiral Barcello occupies his old station, and views, with pleasure, the excursions of his gunboats. We are very busily employed every night repairing the damages done by their shot and shells. We have not had an officer wounded this month, but several non-commissioned



commissioned officers and men killed and 1781  
wounded.

I am,

Dear Brother,

Affectionately yours.

L E T T E R. XXII.

GIBRALTAR.

Dear BROTHER,

**T**HE enemy continue vigourously to 1781  
bombard the garrison--They are ma- July  
king some additional fortification on the 3d  
isthmus, either to shelter themselves or to  
annoy us in a greater degree. Their mili-  
tary force does not appear to have received  
any reinforcement--We observe every night  
several detachments marching down to the  
lines, which we conjecture are to relieve the  
different guards and artillery parties.

Yesterday



1781. Yesterday afternoon, about 15 or 16 sail  
July of small craft arrived from the Westward at  
3d Orange Grove.

7th We kept up a very hot fire last night up-  
on the enemy's mill battery, chiefly small  
shells. Several carts, and a large body of  
men having been observed passing the West  
angle of St. Phillipe, just at the close of the  
evening, which we apprehended were for  
the execution of some work on the isthmus.

9th The enemy's gun and mortar boats came  
over and discharged very briskly several  
rounds of shot and shell. They did not stay  
near their usual time, which makes us ima-  
gine they have suffered from our bursting  
the shells over their heads.

13th Wind W. Arrived a xebec at Algaziras.  
The small craft that anchored at Orange  
Grove the 3d inst. have been landing either  
stores or provisions ever since:-- This morn-  
ing they removed to Algaziras.

Last night we had several men killed and  
wounded by the enemy's land fire.

15th This morning a xebec and several galleys  
stood to the East, two small sail having been  
observed there, waiting the change of the  
wind. It is not improbable but they are  
vessels with supplies, bound from Tetuan  
to the garrison.

17th Wind E. The xebec and cruizers have  
returned

returned without success, to Cabritta, where<sup>1781</sup> they have anchored to keep a look out to July the East. <sup>17th</sup>

Last night a vessel sailed from here, bound to England with dispatches, mentioning all is well. The enemy's land fire is very slack, only now and then a few shot in the day--- at night their discharge is mostly shells.

This morning two galleys brought into 20th Algaziras, a large settee. ---- Hamet, a Moorish butcher, says, she is laden with cattle from Faro. This will be a great loss to the garrison, as we have not received a supply of fresh meat for some time, and there being very few cattle at present in the place. The fresh provision, which is sold now, is pork, and that is very indifferent and scarce, being sed on the filth of the place, 8 rials per pound, about 3s. and 3d. sterling.

Very little fire from the enemy by land, <sup>23d</sup> these six days--they seem to be repairing their works, and we are as attentively employed upon our own.--Towards the bay all is quiet.

The enemy have again roused--Yesterday 28th and to-day they fired incessantly. Our batteries made but a trifling return, as it is almost madness to fire at their works, they being so thickly covered with sand, that our shot finds very little penetration.

The

1781 The enemy continue firing, and seem de-  
 July termined if possible, to batter down all our  
 30th works--their gun and mortar boats again vi-  
 sited us, without effecting any damage. We  
 are really in a dismal situation---between the  
 land and sea fire, we scarce dare close our  
 eyes. On your part you must not expect  
 correct letters; the hurry of the times, the  
 noise of mortars, howitzers, cannon, and  
 the bursting of shells, render the mind so  
 confused that it would be a task; let it suf-  
 fice that I am alive: That shot and shells  
 are my near companions; that smoke, and  
 wounded brother soldiers are constantly in  
 view; that we have heavy duty, hard watch-  
 ings, and little rest; that our comforts are  
 groans; that our nightly repose is turned to  
 harrassing alarms; that our pastimes are de-  
 struction; that every hour, we or the ene-  
 my, are inventing some horrid stratagem;  
 and that the next we behold each other  
 plunged thereby into the most excruciating  
 anguish.

Such, dear Brother, are Gibraltar exhibi-  
 tions, and perhaps while you are reading  
 this, and feel a sensible pang at your heart  
 for my situation, I may be performing my  
 part with convulsive struggles in this tragi-  
 cal scene.

You



You will think I indulge a brood of melancholy reflections, but believe me, I am as chearful as the God of mirth! amidst 30th camps, warlike sounds, and all the din of war, I find complacency in a resignation to the will of God. If Death attends, I hope to receive my fate with a christian fortitude, and meet honor with expanded arms. With the fullest sense of brotherly affection, I subscribe myself,

Sincerely yours.

# LETTER XXIII.

## GIBRALTAR.

Dear BROTHER,

**N**OTHING material has taken place on the isthmus;--the enemy are very attentive to the Siege, and keep up a well directed and regular fire. We lost several men yesterday afternoon, by the fire from the Black Battery.

Gentle

You



1781 - Gentle breezes at W. Last night the gun  
 Aug. and mortar boats arranged in two separate  
 1st divisions, briskly poured into the garrison  
 about 200 rounds of shot and shells. Our  
 batteries, together with the Repulse and Van-  
 guard, (which are anchored off the New  
 Mole Head) gave them a generous return.  
 --So brisk was the fire, that the bay appear-  
 ed like a blaze, during the whole time.

3d Wind W. This morning a boat standing  
 for the rock, was taken by the enemy's  
 cruizers, and conducted over the way. We  
 could not give her any assistance, she being  
 near two leagues distance.

5th The enemy keep busy at work, during  
 the intervals our firing ceases, and have great-  
 ly strengthened their advanced approaches.  
 From their proceedings we are almost posi-  
 tive they have other works in contemplation.  
 On our side we have begun forming some  
 additional embrasures on the hills.

Garrison orders.

187 "The ration of provision as last week, ex-  
 cept that no oil will be issued till further or-  
 ders, and half a pound of cheese will be deli-  
 187 vered for the 4 ounces of butter, in lieu of the  
 187 quarter of a pint of oil."

111 - The ration now stands thus per week,  
 Bread as usual, 1 lb and half beef, 1 ditto of  
 pork, 6 ounces of butter, 10 ounces of cheese,  
 4 pints of pease, 3 pints of oatmeal."

This

This forenoon a sail appeared in the offing, 1781 with little wind at W. The Spanish watch-towers hung out the signal of an enemy's 6th appearance—Eighteen sail of gun boats rowed out from Algaziras, and when she had come within two leagues of the garrison, it fell a dead calm, and the enemy raked her fore and aft, showering grape both upon her starboard and larboard quarter. She plied her guns briskly, and I believe, would have been inevitably taken, had not Capt. Curtis, naval commander, ordered the two gun boats, viz. the Van Guard and Repulse, the former of six, and the latter of five guns, to be towed by the men of war's boats, towards the enemy, which they performed in a gallant and undaunted manner, notwithstanding the Spanish gun boats directed their fire among them—When they had got within reach, the Repulse discharged her guns, and as soon as the Van Guard came up, she did the same, which prevented the enemy from boarding the vessel—A xebec, cutter, and several double galleys co-operated and poured in a heavy fire, but could not cut her off from the garrison. Her sails we could plainly perceive, were so greatly torn with grape, that when the breeze sprang up, she could make but little way, but our boats having got a rope from her, they towed

1781ed her under the walls. She proves to be Aug. the Helena sloop, in 16 days from Port-6th mouth. Her main mast was shot through with a 26lb ball; the boatswain was killed, and one of the hands wounded: Such a warm engagement was never known in fight of the garrison, and we concluded that every soul on board must have been killed or wounded. --- But Britons are ever brave, nor could the numerous swarm of cruizers the least dishearten the captain, nor dispirit the noble crew, who were determined, rather than yield to Spanish power, to perish every man. When she had come near enough for the garrison to cheer (who in crowds had taken possession of the walls and heights as spectators) an incessant shouting ensued, and huzzas that re-echoed from the rock and skies.

Such instances as these convince the enemy that the spirit of Britons is unparalleled, and that no superiority of power will make them yield. It must greatly cool their courage, and dispossess them of all hope of taking Gibraltar.

Thus Albion's sons defy the hostile foe--  
Dare ever to free, and spurn all danger.  
From shore to shore they steer with con-  
qu'ring arms!

With



With Britain's royal ensigns spread abroad, 1781  
 On whom the wond'ring nations gaze with Aug.  
 pleasure, 6th

While Geo'ge's enemies are struck with  
 dread.---

Ye hec't'ring Dons, the British standard  
 view,

That bids defiance to your fleets and armies;

Nor let ambition lead you on to woe,

But stop! before we work your overthrow.

Wind E. Last night a settee from Minorca 10th  
 bound to the garrison, with supplies, was taken off Europa, by the enemy's cruizers. The crew had just time, before she was boarded, to make their escape. The enemy keep up a tolerable brisk fire, and we continue to annoy them from our batteries on the hill.

Last night, between eleven and twelve 16th  
 o'clock, the enemy's gun and mortar boats, made an attack upon the southward—The garrison and shipping returned the fire, but unfortunately, during the action, we had the loss of one man killed and three wounded.

Wind W. During the course of the night, 17th  
 a schooner got safe in from Faro, with sundry supplies. They bring an account that the enemy are busy at Cadiz, in equipping an armament to act against this place, and are hourly



1781 hourly in expectation of being reinforced with Aug. a French Squadron.

19th Last night several guns were distinctly heard in the gut, from nine to eleven o'clock, which proved to be the enemy in chase of the Kite cutter, from Gravesend, arrived here safe this morning. She has brought dispatches for our Governor.

23d The enemy are diligently employed in lengthening their approaches on the isthmus. Several strong parties frequently appear, which we as regularly fire upon -- From their Black Battery, Forts St. Phillipe, Barbary, and lines, they keep a hot and severe cannonade and bombardment---two soldiers killed this day.

28th Last night, there being a smooth sea, the Spanish gun and mortar boats came over from Algaziras, and fired very briskly for the space of two hours and upwards. The garrison, shipping, and two advanced gun-boats or Prams, made a very good return, but all ineffectual to prevent their annoyance.---A shell unfortunately fell into the artillery ward at Naval Hospital, and killed a matrois, who was incapable of getting out of bed, owing to having his leg and thigh broke by the enemy's fire some time past, of which he daily languished. The shell dropped by the side of his cradle, spitting forth its sulphurous venom.

venom, and in that tormenting situation he 1781  
 was compelled to remain and wait the mercy Aug.  
 of the explosion. You may judge what must 28th  
 be his feeling, in that predicament, without  
 friends, help, or strength to make his escape  
 from so irresistible a foe: The inexpressible  
 agonies he must have experienced during the  
 short interval of life, certainly were beyond  
 the power of utterance, or the delineations  
 of a pen to give a just description: After  
 having uttered a few ejaculations to heaven,  
 the unmerciful demon burst in pieces, and  
 extinguished those sparks of life that were  
 unexpired in the wounded man.

Nothing extraordinary this month from 30th  
 the land or sea; every thing is perfectly  
 quiet in respect to storming us. The Spa-  
 nish batteries continue their usual fire, both  
 from their lines and isthmus. We expect  
 every westerly wind to behold the grand ar-  
 mament appear in the offing, from Cadiz, to  
 give the decisive blow.---Gen. Eliott has  
 made every possible arrangement of ordnance,  
 for a determined opposition, and, I hope,  
 whenever the trial comes, that our arms will  
 be crowned with victorious success.

I am,

Dear Brother,

Affectionately yours.

L E T T E R

## LETTER XXIV.

## GIBRALTAR.

Dear Brother,

1781 **D**EATH and slaughter continue to be  
 Sept. our visitants--on every hand impend-  
 ing ruin hourly awaits. The Spaniards keep  
 up their usual fire upon us, seemingly stu-  
 diously meditating our overthrow; not only  
 the garrison of Gibraltar, but also the island  
 of Minorca has excited their attention.  
 From this it is evident they are aiming at  
 clearing the Mediterranean of His Britannic  
 Majesty's land and sea forces, but it is ho-  
 ped that their endeavours to effect these  
 purposes, will fall short of the desired suc-  
 cess.

5th. This forenoon a Spanish cartel brought  
 over the Patron of the boat taken the third  
 of August last, from whom we learn, that  
 the French have landed an army on the  
 island of Minorca, with an intent to work  
 the reduction of that place, and it is cur-  
 rently



rently reported in Spain, that the Duc de Cril-1781  
lon had commenced a bombardment there. Sept.  
Several wounded invalids was embarked on  
ship-board by order of the Governor, on  
their passage for England, the 3d inst.

The enemy are very busy on the isthmus  
employed at work, forwarding their labours  
--The tracts of several carts have been dis-  
covered on the sand, between the lines and  
Mill-Battery, so that we imagine they were  
either bringing ordnance or materials for  
their batteries,

Arrived from the eastward, a xebec and 7th  
two galleys---they have anchored on the  
opposite side. The enemy's fire continues.  
Three men wounded this afternoon, by the  
explosion of a shell.

This morning the Spanish squadron were 12th  
dressed out with variety of colours, and at  
noon the forts, lines, and Black Battery, gave  
us a salute of 27 guns with shot: The  
troops in camp were arranged in line, and  
fired a *feu de joye*, which they repeated three  
times, together with the shipping at Alga-  
ziras. We cannot imagine the cause of this  
rejoicing, as it is not one of their saint's  
days.

Wind E. The invalids under the care of 16th  
Lieut. Lowe of the 12th regiment, sailed  
last night to the W.

The



1781. The enemy continue a brisk cannonade--  
Sept. We return the fire but moderately.

18th. Last night the Spanish gun and mortar boats stole over, and fired upwards of 300 rounds of shot and shell-- The garrison and shipping kept up an incessant discharge of ordnance, but unluckily, during the action, we had four men wounded.

Some time in the course of the night, a carcass fired from Willis's, upon the works on the isthmus, set them on fire, which burnt for near an hour--- We took this opportunity of making a furious return, which the enemy particularly acknowledged.

We discovered, this morning, a new work West side of St. Carlos, extended towards the shore. It is not sufficiently executed to form a judgment of the construction.

A xebec and several cruizers sailed this morning from Algaziras to the Eastward, where they are observed cruizing backwards and forwards, in expectation of meeting some prey.

19th. Between nine and ten o'clock last night, a shell fired from St. Carlos, entered a house, leading down from South-line-wall Guard, where Majors Mercier and Vignoles, of the 39th regiment, and Captain Burke of the 58th regiment, (Town-Major of the Garrison) were sitting at a Table, which

which fell upon the latter's thighs, and 1781  
smashed them. The rubbish which drop-Sept.  
ped from the ceiling, wounded the two 19th  
Majors, and extinguished the candle, so  
that all the light they had, was from the  
fuse of the shell. Major Vignoles having  
put his hand over the table, found Captain  
Burke in a gore of blood, upon which he  
exclaimed to the other, "*Oh! Burke's killed.*"  
They then as hastily as they could, owing  
to their wounds, and being in the dark,  
retreated to the door, which they had scarce  
accomplished, when the shell burst, and  
tossed the Town-Major from the place  
where he had fallen, part of his flesh was  
blown up to the ceiling, and the walls be-  
sprinkled with his blood. In this mangled  
situation he was taken up, and carried to  
the Naval Hospital, where he shortly after  
expired. As the men were carrying him,  
he entreated in a languid tone, which indi-  
cated a speedy dissolution, that they would  
kill him, and put an end to his misery.

You will pardon me if I just draw the  
outlines of so worthy a character.

As an officer he was bold and vigilant--  
enterprising and well-disciplined. In his  
station he was active and severe, ever atten-  
tive to the good of the service, he strictly  
took cognizance of all neglects and irregu-  
larities

1781 larities that came to his knowledge, and Sept. brought several to condign punishment, as 19th public examples. To do justice to his eminent abilities, my talents are far inadequate, I shall therefore leave it to some more able pen, who were intimate with him, and knew his private as well as public virtues. All I have to remark is, that he is a loss to society, to his country in general, and to this garrison in particular.

While the attendants strove to bind his wounds,

He patient gaz'd around, with quiv'ring eyes,

'Till wearied nature, sinking with her load,

Resisted -- struggled -- worn out with th' encounter,

Resign'd her charge unto the tyrant Death;

His soul unfetter'd, unincumber'd fled,

To the blest mansions of eternal peace.

The enemy kept up a brisk fire, which was as spiritedly returned by our batteries, and when the above intelligence had reached the several posts, revenge operated so powerfully that our cannonade continued till the morning, very hot. We had several men wounded, during the night.

Sailed the Helena and Kite to the W.

This



This day between eleven and one, a soldier was executed for theft. He died seemingly insensible of his situation.

Garrison orders.

"Captain James Foulis of the 73d regiment is appointed Town-Major, vice Major Burke deceased."

This day we had several men killed from the land fire--the enemy continue briskly at work, on the West side of St. Carlos.

Garrison orders.

"The ration of provision from Monday the 24th inst. 7lb. of bread, 1 and half ditto beef, 1 ditto pork, 6 ounces butter, 1 2 ditto cheese, (in lieu of one pound of beef) 3 pints of oat-meal, 3 ditto pease, 1 and quarter pints of wheat, in lieu of one pint of pease."

Last night the enemy's gun and mortar boats came over and fired near 300 rounds, but mostly shells--they did not do any considerable damage to the southward. Our Prams discovered them pretty early, and made a very free return;--the firing from the garrison at them, was chiefly from the New Mole and South Bastion--We took the advantage to fire during their stay, into their camp,



1781 camp, from the bottom of the Devil's Sept Tongue. The enemy from the land side, 24th keep up the bombardment and cannonade, and are attentively employed at work on the isthmus, in strengthening and advancing their lines of approach.

25th Wind W. Arrived the Flying Fish cutter, from England. A xebec chased her under the garrison guns, and exchanged several shot with her, but could not prevent her from entering the port. During the course of the night, the mortars (that have been heightened) off Fort Barbara, took fire, which occasioned the garrison to pour in a great quantity of shot and shells. A few small vessels arrived at the Orange Grove---It is likely they have brought provision for the camp, as their army must cause a great consumption in the province of Andalusia, which at best, is but poor and badly supplied with cattle.

30th The enemy have not ceased firing these five days, but have kept up a regular and determined cannonade: They have not killed and wounded many, though a person would think it impossible for a bird to escape, amidst such showers of shot. On the sea side all is quiet, nor has any shipping of force appeared either from East or West to molest us. The enemy are very tedious in commencing

(( 157 ))

commencing the storm, and really our expectation begins to tire. They have bombarded us now near six months, and General Alvarez is as far from taking possession of the garrison, as he was at first, although they have discharged from their batteries, according to the nearest calculation, between 30 and 40,000 rounds of shot and shells. He may view the rock with his perspective, from the camp of St. Roque, but if he wishes to examine the workmanship of the walls, and the strength of the fortification, he must come much nearer, or return without the gratification of his curiosity.

I remain,

Dear Brother,

Affectionately yours,

LETTER

LETTER XXV.

GIBRALTAR,

Dear BROTHER,

1781 **E**VERY thing remains much in the  
Oct. same situation, as when I finished my  
5th last letter. Admiral Barcello and his  
squadron occupy the port of Algaziras,  
from whence now and then, a xebec or  
galley will occasionally push out, merely to  
command respect. We have not observed a  
signal on the Spanish towers at Cabritta a  
long time, but we expect whenever the na-  
val armament sails from Cadiz harbour, it  
will be immediately noised along the coast.  
The common salutation of each morning, is  
"Which way does the wind blow?" So  
anxious is every one to receive the foe.

Garrison orders.

"Full allowance of beef will be issued.  
The Governor allows each man a quarter of a  
pint of vinegar per week, till further orders,  
those in the hospital not included, as they are  
supplied

*supplied with the quantity necessary by the 1781  
Director; 8 ounces of cheese in lieu of 4 ounces of butter as usual.*

Very little wind at W. Last night the 7th gun and mortar boats came over, and fired excessive brisk upon the southward; the garrison and shipping fired in return, but they did not do any damage on shore. We fired several shells into their camp from Old Mole Head. The enemy keep firing and working on the isthmus.

This day the enemy fired upon us with 10th great warmth, which was as freely returned by the batteries upon the hill. Unfortunately during the time, a shell which burst, killed Ensign Stevens of the 39th regiment-- Several men were wounded by the splinters of shells.

The Flying Fish cutter, which arrived here 25th of September, sailed unperceived by the enemy.

This day the enemy's line of battle ships 11th sailed to the westward. From this circumstance, we conclude, that the fleet equipping at Cadiz, is destined to act against some other place, or there could not be any necessity to remove those ships from this station. On the land side the enemy keep up the fire, and this day, it is reported, an additional mortar



178 mortar was mounted in St. Carlos. We  
 08 fired very hot upon their advanced works.

17th The enemy yesterday afternoon, had  
 some artillery practice in their camp, but  
 we could not particularly make out the  
 meaning, as we could only observe some  
 smook, and hear the report of the ordnance.  
 On the isthmus several working parties have  
 appeared, which we continue to fire upon.

20th This day a hot cannonade was kept up on  
 both sides for many hours---Lieut. Tinslin,  
 Assistant Engineer, and four soldiers were  
 wounded thereby. Our fire, apparently, put  
 the enemy frequently in confusion, and se-  
 veral men were seen carrying on bearers along  
 the shore, towards their camp.

21st This day there was a general change of  
 quarters with the soldiery--Those regiments  
 quartered in town, marched and took pos-  
 session of the southward encampments, and  
 the others marched for the town district.  
 Arrived a xebec from the W. at Algaziras.  
 The enemy, as usual, keep up the fire.

22d This morning we discovered the enemy  
 had finished a battery of six ambrazures,  
 from Mill Tower, towards the West strand,  
 which they began on the 18th September.  
 It faces the Old Mole and Waterport, and  
 is constructed on purpose for the annoyance  
 of those posts. We fired very warm upon it  
 from

from Montague's bastion, and the upper 1781  
batteries. Oct.

Last night, two soldiers deserted from us 24th  
to the enemy; they cannot carry any intel-  
ligence that will prove prejudicial to the  
welfare of the garrison.

About two this afternoon, a great firing  
was heard in the gut--the Spanish towers  
had a red flag hoisted, and several galleys  
pushed from Algaziras to the westward.—  
We fear some unfortunate vessel destined  
for this place, has fell into the enemy's  
clutches.

This day we had the pleasure to set the 23d  
enemy's new work on fire, by howitzer  
shells from Montague's bastion, which oc-  
casioned the enemy to redouble their can-  
nonade from their forts and lines--With  
much difficulty, danger, and loss, they got  
the fire extinguished. On our side we had  
some few wounded.

Last night the enemy covered the ambra- 25th  
zures of their new battery, with sand and  
fascines; from this it is evident that the  
platforms for the cannon is not laid; it will  
therefore be some days before they can have  
it mounted for action. We give them a  
a plentiful discharge of small shells, which  
must prove very disadvantageous to them in  
their proceedings.

1781. A report is now received from the batteries, that a Spanish officer (as they could plainly perceive his uniform) was knocked off the Mill Battery, as he was standing upon the glacis, taking an observation of our works. There is not any doubt but he was an engineer, which will be a loss to the enemy, as they have some of the most celebrated for fortification now in their service.

26th A heavy fire all night from the Black Battery, forts, and lines. This day Lieut. Vicals of the 56th regiment, received a wound. The galleys that sailed to the west the 22d, have returned to their old station.

30th Wind W. About eleven this forenoon, a sail appeared standing for the bay. Two Spanish cruizers under Ape's Hill fired a signal gun, upon which eleven gun boats sallied out from Algaziras. When they came up with her, she opened her ports, and discharged several rounds of grape, and continued firing till she came pretty near Europa, where the enemy boarded her, and carried her off in triumph. She was an English cutter, and fought well, nor would she have been captured had not the wind dropped. The enemy keep up a spirited fire from the land side.



Last night arrived with a fresh breeze at 1781 W. the Unicorn cutter, and four other vessels from Faro, laden with fruit and poultry, 31st a very seasonable and excellent supply, as the garrison are very much necessitated for vegetables, fruit, and fresh diet. The New Mole wharf, this morning, was quite crowded, every one being anxious to buy something, although the articles sold at an exorbitant rate; onions sold for six rials per lb. 2s. 5d farthing, and oranges and lemons one rial eight quarts each 7d. halfpenny Sterling, the poultry at the usual prices, viz. three dollars and an half for a hen. Common green tea, brought by the Unicorn, sold for fourteen dollars per lb. 2l 5s. 6d. and loaf sugar five dollars, nearly 17s. per lb. This is rare traffic! We hope these times will not last long, and a communication will be opened, so that supplies may be brought in and sold at a moderate price; or, should they continue, the garrison will, of course, be exhausted of all cash to support nature.

The enemy keep up a constant fire.--- Their works on the isthmus are going forward, and their naval and military force remains much the same.

This



1780 This month is finished without any  
Oct. great exploits, or coming to close quar-  
ters.

I am, Dear Brother,

Affectionately yours.

## LETTER XXVI.

GIBRALTAR.

Dear BROTHER,

1780 **T**HREE days more elapsed without any  
Nov. particular circumstance intervening,  
3d nor has the enemy appeared to be so attentive  
to their labours. The Siege is continued  
by our opponents, who adopt every measure  
to distress us, notwithstanding which, the  
British troops, apparently, disregard the  
threat'ning foe, who thunder forth their  
vengeance every hour.

The

The garrison are very much afflicted with the scurvy, owing to their salt diet, and some of them so bad, that they have lost the entire use of their limbs, and represent the picture of decrepid old age. Our Governor has humanely ordered the Director of the hospital, to serve out daily to the surgeons of the several corps, one pound of onions for every ten men, and two lemons or oranges for every man in the scurvy. This, it is hoped, will contribute greatly to their cure.

The gun and mortar boats came over, and discharged all their ammunition upon the garrison, while the land batteries took part in the cannonade. An incessant fire on every side continued for upwards of two hours, during which time, Ensign Edgar of the 56th, and Lieut. John Frazer of the 73d regiments, were wounded---The latter lost a leg by a shot from the Black Battery; several soldiers also were wounded.

Nine settees came from the West, and anchored at the Orange Grove---We suppose them to be market boats.

Yesterday we fired from the garrison at a 9th Danish dogger, that came nearly under the guns, but could not make her come in. On the land side the enemy fired excessively warm, which was answered from Willis's, and

178 and the upper batteries. This morning we Nov. discovered that the enemy had erected another battery on the isthmus, seemingly fronting our lines—They are determined to have a sufficient number of pieces of ordnance mounted for battering our walls, whereas now they have so many, that a successive discharge keeps up an intermissive fire.

13th Wind W. Arrived at New Mole, the Phoenix ordnance cutter, with Brigadier-General Ross, passenger. She had a brush with a cruizer at the entrance of the bay, but not of any consequence—Her intelligence is kept very secret.

This forenoon a cutter from the westward was chased by a frigate, and three galleys, but before she could reach the garrison, she was becalmed and boarded: She plied her guns in a spirited manner, but the superiority of power obliged her to yield. The enemy brought her into Algaziras, under her ensign reversed.

A very heavy fire from the land batteries, directed towards the hills and town, during which we had the loss of two men killed, and three wounded.

th A brisk fire from the lines and forts—The enemy worked very hard last night, on the isthmus, and completed the battery they began

gan on the 9th instant. We fired several 1781  
13-inch shells upon them this morning. Nov.

This day a shell fired from St. Carlos, fell 16th  
near George Picard's vineyard, where it  
burst, but did not do any damage. A splin-  
ter of another which exploded in the air,  
struck the South end of the naval hospital,  
which is near 4000 yards; a most incredible  
distance for pieces of ordnance to reach. The  
enemy fired very brisk upon our works from  
all the ordnance they have mounted; they  
did much damage to Willis's battery, and  
wounded Lieutenant Evans, an assistant En-  
gineer, though not dangerously.

The enemy continue their *long-range* shells 18th  
upon the Southward which is of great annoy-  
ance. Last night a shell fell under the plat-  
form of a tent where two corporals were a-  
sleep, when the intolerable fume and stench  
of the composition awakened them, nor could  
they imagine from whence the smoke pro-  
ceeded. The shell lay burning under the  
boards, when they opened the tent door to  
let in the air, to prevent being suffocated, at  
that instant it exploded, and blew them some  
yards, without receiving any injury---they  
shortly recovered from the surprize, and tur-  
ned their eyes to the place where the tent had  
stood, but the bedding, blankets, tent-poles,  
&c, could not be seen, they being torn to  
pieces,



178 pieces and scattered in many places. In Nov this naked situation they began a search for 18th their wearing apparel, but only found the cuff of a coat in one place, part of a sleeve in another, and their shoes parched to a cinder. Thus forlorn they began to console each other, when Corporal R— exclaimed "D—n it, I don't care for the loss of my cloaths, but all my money is gone," he having about 14 rials in his pocket, when he went to bed.

You probably will imagine that a man who escaped such imminent danger, would not have let his mind be employed about the consideration of wordly pelf; but the military gentlemen being so constantly inured to danger, and exposed to an incessant fire, think very little of preservation; for should a man keep *death* stedfastly in view, it would dispossess him of every spark of heroism, and incapacitate him for the business of fighting.

21st Came in two deserters from the enemy's Walloon-Guards, one of them is a corporal and seems to be an intelligent man. He says there is 21,000 men in camp, waiting the arrival of the naval power, to storm this place. He has given the General a clear and exact description of the works on the isthmus, and the construction of St. Carlos, together with an account of the strength of their guards and working parties, that are employed daily.

The

The enemy continue to throw their long 1781 rangers. Last night a shell fell at the door Nov. of the barrack on the Mole parade, where 21st it burst, forced the door open, and broke all the windows---The hand of providence was visible in the discharge of this shell, for had it been a yard more to the left, it must have fell into the barracks, where two companies of soldiers are quartered.

The long rangers still visit the South--- 23d One fell in Colonel Cochrane's quarters on Scud-hill, but did not do any damage: Another near the magazine on the Mole parade, and several into the Mole yard and within the boom. We keep a constant fire upon their works, but they are so well entrenched that we cannot silence them.

The enemy keep rattling away with guns 26th and mortars, and seemingly take a pleasure in reaching the southward. Several shells have fell this forenoon about South Shed, and Princess of Wales's lines--They cannot reach further only when there is a strong northerly wind, which forces the shell with a greater velocity--We fired several times at their working parties on the isthmus.

This evening the garrison were highly delighted with the general orders--It is whispered, that the information given by the corporal that came in the 21st inst. has

1781 induced the Governor to make a tryal of  
Nov. British valour,

26th

Evening Garrison Orders.

*" All the grenadiers and light infantry, and all the men of the 12th, and Hardenberg's regiments, officers and non-commissioned officers, now on duty, to be immediately called in and join their regiments, to form a detachment, consisting of the 12th, and Hardenberg's regiments compleat---The grenadiers and light companies of all the other regiments (who are to be compleated to their full establishment from the battallion companies) one captain, three lieutenants, ten non commissioned officers, and one hundred artillery, three engineers, seven officer overseers twelve non commissioned overseers and one hundred and sixty workmen from the line, excepting from the 12th and Hardenberg's regiments, and forty workmen from the artificer company---Each man to carry 39 rounds or more, a good flint in his piece, and another in his pocket---No drums, except two with the 12th, and two with Hardenberg's---No swords---The whole to assemble on the Red Sands at twelve o'clock this night---The wine houses to be shut at six o'clock, and all the soldiers to repair to their quarters---Brigadier Ross to command the detachment---No volunteers will be allowed.*

*Dackenhausen,*

*Dackenhauseu, Hugo, Trigge, and Major Maxwell to meet the Governor at the Field Officers room, at the South, as soon as possible. 26th Nov. The troops intended for the Sortie to be formed as follows :*

**RIGHT.** Lieut. Colonel Hugo, Grenadiers of Reden's and La Mott's, Workmen, Artillery, Hardenberg's Regiment, Light Company 56th Regiment.

**CENTRE.** Lieut. Colonel Dackenhauseu, Grenadiers and Light Company 39th and 73d Regiments, Workmen, Artillery, Grenadiers of the 56th and 58th Regiments, Major Maxwell.

**LEFT.** Lieut. Colonel Trigge, Grenadiers and Light Infantry 72d Regiment, Seamen, Artillery, 12th Regiment, Light Company of 58th Regiment.

The



1781 This morning at two o'clock, the detachment of officers, non-commissioned officers and men, under the command of Brigadier Ross, marched from the Red Sands, where they had assembled, through Bay-side and lower Forbes's, to storm the enemy's advanced works---The word STEADY, was the countersign. The Spanish centinels, posted in the gardens, soon discovered them, upon which they fired their muskets, to spread the alarm, and then retreated to St. Carlos. The British army, in a spirited and intrepid manner, rushed on, and after some opposition, gained possession of the Spanish works, which struck such a panic to the enemy, that the greatest part stationed to defend the place, fled with consternation to the lines, to make a position of defence, not apprehending so unexpected a visit, while the others fell from the fire of our musquetry. The business now commenced, the workmen and seamen began with their tomahawks, devils, and warlike combustibles, to set the batteries on fire, while the artillery spiked up ten mortars, and eighteen pieces of cannon, during which one of the former happened to go off, and sent a shell to the southward; in a few minutes the isthmus appeared an entire blaze, and the reflection of the light was so great, that a person might have  
perused

perused a book upon our batteries. Thus 1781  
 successful, the whole body gave three huz-Nov.  
 zas, which consequently must sensibly ag-27th  
 gravate and vex the foe. We kept up a hot  
 cannonnade from the garrison, upon their  
 two forts and Brear-gate, to cover our men,  
 and prevent their sallying out. A regiment  
 of horse appeared near Fort Barbary, but  
 after they had made several feints to come  
 on, they thought prudent to retire. The  
 enemy fired upon the detachment with round  
 and grape, but their cannon for want of be-  
 ing sufficiently depressed, had not the desi-  
 red effect, as most of the shot flew over our  
 people's heads. Our gallant and veteran  
 Governor, accompanied by Capt. Curtis,  
 went out to be an eye witness of the trans-  
 action:---He had a sword slung over his  
 shoulder, and when the business was fully  
 accomplished, he smiled, and said to the  
 men, "*Look round, my boys, and view how  
 beautiful the rock appears, by the light of this  
 glorious fire.*" Captain Witham of the Ar-  
 tillery, then came to him, and with all the  
 gracefulness of a warrior, presented him the  
 keys of the Spanish magazines, which had  
 been taken from the officer commanding St.  
 Carlos. The detachment having done all  
 that men could do, retreated to the garrison,  
 with the satisfaction of destroying in fifteen  
 minutes,

Strength of the Detachment that made the Sortie.		Officers	Non comm	Officers	Drummers	Rank and File
RIGHT. Lt. Colonel Hugo	Reden's Grenadiers	5	7	0	71	
	La Motte's do.	3	7	0	71	
	Workmen and Artillery	5	4	0	50	
	Hardenberg's Regiment	16	34	2	296	
	56th Light Infantry	3	3		57	
CENTRE. Lt Col Dackenhäufen, Major Maxwell.	39th Grenadiers . .	3	3	0	57	
	29th Light Infantry	3	3	0	57	
	Workmen and Artillery	6	8	0	150	
	73d Grenadiers . .	4	5	0	101	
	73d Light Infantry	4	5	0	101	
	56th Grenadiers .	3	3	0	57	
	58th ditto . .	3	3	0	57	
LEFT. Lieut. Col. Trigge.	72d Grenadiers . .	4	5	0	101	
	72d Light Infantry	4	5	0	101	
	Seamen .	3	10	0	100	
	12th Regiment . .	26	28	2	430	
	58th Light Infantry	3	3	0	57	
Total		98	136	4	1824	

*State of the Garrison at the time of the Sortie.*

	Colonels	Lt. Colonels	Major	Captains	Lieutenants	Ensigns	Chaplains	Adjutants	Or. Masters	Surgeons	Males	Serjeants	Drummers and Fifers	Rank & File
<i>Detachment composed the Sortie</i>	1	3	3	23	58	14	0	3	0	0	2	136	4	2014
<i>Sick and wounded</i>	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	28	6	557
<i>Remaining</i>	5	5	5	48	73	31	3	7	8	9	14	277	179	2431
<i>Total of the Garrison</i>	6	8	8	72	132	46	3	10	8	9	16	441	189	5002

N. B. Brevet Majors are included as Captains; non-commissioned officers of Artillery as serjeants. 41 Drummers and 51 private, of what remained in the Garrison, were boys.



*Casuals in the different Corps in the  
before-mentioned Sortie.*

C O R P S.	Killed.				Wounded.			
	Officers	Serjeants	Drummers	Ra. & File	Officers	Serjeants	Drummers	Ra. & File
<i>R. Artillery</i>								
12th regiment	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
39th	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
56th	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
58th	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
72d	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
73d	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	2
Hardenberg's	—	—	—	2	—	1	—	1
Reden's	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
La Molt's	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Artificier comp.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Seamen	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
<i>Total</i>	—	—	—	—	4	1	2	— 22
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Carlos

minutes, a work estimated at one million of 1781 dollars, bringing with them prisoners, one Nov. sub-lieutenant of Walloon Guards, (Baron 27th Helmstat) one sub-lieutenant of Artillery, and ten men; with the small loss on our side of four men killed, one officer, (Lieut. Tweedie of the 12th regiment, who received a grape shot in his thigh) two serjeants, and 22 men wounded; and one man missing. The enemy had only recovered their surprize, and beat *to arms*, when the detachment was repassing of Landport-gate, so that you will say we were expeditious in destruction.

The General expressed the greatest approbation of the officers and men, which you will perceive by the following

Garrison orders.

*"The bravery and conduct of the whole detachment, officers, seamen and soldiers, on this glorious occasion, surpasses the Governor's utmost acknowledgment."*

The enemy's works burnt very furiously 28th all yesterday afternoon and evening, and are still on fire. They last night, fired very warm with grape shot, on the isthmus, supposing we were again advancing, until a shell fired from the upper batteries on St. Carlos, convinced them that we had not

Z

any

1781 any men there. A large body of men yesterday evening marched from their camp to 28th the lines, to reinforce the different posts, should we pay them a visit in that quarter.

Garrison orders.

*"The Adjutant General having laid before the Governor the following note from Brigadier General Ross, he is pleased to direct that the same shall be inserted in the orders of the day.*

*"Brigadier Ross begs of the Adjutant-General that he would mention to the Governor his most humble request, that his Excellency would be pleased to accept of the Brigadier's warmest acknowledgements of the great honor conferred on him, by commanding the detachment that formed the Sortie. To the Officers, and every one of whom, he would wish to make the most public avowal of their firm good behaviour upon this occasion.*

30th The enemy yesterday and to-day have been viewing the ashes of their late works, and with penitential tears, moaning their irretrievable lots, and endless disgrace. We keep up a smart fire at present, and it is asserted, that it will be continued to prevent the enemy from repairing the damage their batteries have received. General Alvarez, there

is not any doubt, will study mischief in retaliation, and exert all his intellectual faculties Nov. in the promotion of plans, projects, strata-30th gems and inventions, to gain revenge; but while success smiles upon our arms, and glory sounds from shore to shore, the transporting melody inspires with desperate animation, and invigorates the warrior's zeal to such a degree, that fleets, armies, camps, garrisons, forts, batteries and intrenchments, with all the hostile pomp and thirgnings of the foe, are disregarded, and stamped with contempt.

I am,

Dear Brother,

With the greatest affection,

Yours, &c.

LETTER



LETTER XXVII.

GIBRALTAR.

Dear BROTHER,

1781  
Dec. **T**HE enemy have not began repairing their approaches, but seemingly intend it, as several parties unarmed frequently make their appearance---They return a spirited fire from their lines and forts, but their isthmus bombardment, alas ! is over.

7th Wind S. W. This day, an English cutter was captured, by the enemy's gun boats, after an hour's spirited fire on both sides. She crouded all the sail she possibly could, but the wind having dropped almost to a calm, the garrison and shipping were incapable of assisting her.

9th Wind E. This forenoon two frigates (one French and one Spanish) arrived from the Eastward at Algaziras; and this afternoon about a dozen large settees arrived at the Orange Grove. The enemy has done nothing particular on the isthmus.

This

This morning we perceived the Spaniards 1781 had begun repairing the ruins of St. Carlos, Dec. and that several parties were busily employed. 11th We accordingly discharged a considerable quantity of grape shot and small shells upon them which made them desist from their labour.

A small sloop was this forenoon taken off Tarifa, by a galley and three gun boats. It is likely that she was bound for this place.

Wind N. E. Yesterday evening sailed 16th from hence, the Phoenix and Unicorn cutters, bound for England--The enemy either did not observe them, or otherwise did not think them worth the pursuit.

The Spaniards occasionally labour at repairing their works, but as soon as they observe the flash of our ordnance, they immediately get under cover, but we endeavour to annoy them with our small shells, which drops into their works, and then bursts :---These consequently must be fatal to them, as their traverses were all consumed, together with the gabions and fascines of all their advanced works.

Wind W. During the course of the night, 20th two English vessels arrived with supplies of butter, potatoes and beef, from Portsmouth, having had a passage of twenty days. They bring intelligence that the day before they left Faio, they heard the account of the garrison

1781 Garrison Sally papers, having been received Dec. there, upon the interesting subject.

20th Several bundles of fascines was brought from the lines to the isthmus last night, and the sand threw up in many places. The enemy apparently have forgot their defeat, and that they ever had erected advanced works; or surely the recollection would prevent them from any further attempt to construct others in their place.

21st Last night, it being a brisk lavanter, Major General Ross (appointed to that rank by His Majesty's command, and declared in the Garrison orders of yesterday) sailed from hence on his passage to Portugal, from whence he will take shipping for England, where there is not the least doubt but he will be received with eclat, and every mark of approbation, from a rewarding nation, for his bravery and singular service on the 27th of last November.

The Spaniards are very busy on the isthmus, and have repaired a great part of the ruins of their late works :--- They seem determined on their re-construction, notwithstanding our heavy and spirited fire from Willis's and the upper batteries: The black battery and Fort St. Phillipe, kept up an incessant cannonade all this morning upon the garrison.

Wind



Wind E. Arrived a frigate, sloop, cutter, 1781 and several xebecs from the eastward, and Dec. anchored between Orange Grove and Alga- 22d ziras. A settee was taken off Ceuta point, by a galley, and carried in there.

Wind W. N. W. Passed by a convoy of 24th neutrals, in all about 30 sail---The enemy hoisted a signal at Cabritta, not knowing who they were, upon which a xebec went out and spoke to them.

This morning early, died in the naval 29t hospital, Baron Helmstat, taken prisoner at St. Carlos, on the 27th last month, and who since had a leg amputated, owing to a wound he received by a musquet ball in that action. The corps was dressed in full uniform, according to the Spanish custom, and the General and principal officers. walked in solemn procession, to the New Mole, where a flag of truce waited to convey the body to Orange Grove: A band of music playing a a dirge, and a company of grenadiers, escorted the decorated bier to the water's edge, and upon the corps being lowered into the boat, the latter fired three volleys in honor of the deceased. The coffin had all that art and ingenuity could invent, to render it elegant, which must sensibly please the enemy, when they consider the respect paid by the Governor to this fallen officer. He was young, handsome



27<sup>th</sup> handsome, and on the point of nuptial celebration with a beautiful lady, born in the 29<sup>th</sup> province of Andalusia, and who during his sickness, had furnished him daily (by flags of truce) with wine and other refreshing diet, which this garrison could not afford; but the day before his departure, she came half way over, (hearing of his dangerous situation) to visit him, and take her last adieu! but the Adjutant General, who went out to receive the flag of truce, assured her, she could not be permitted to land until the Governor's pleasure was known, and that the next day he would wait upon her with his Excellency's commands; instead of which, she received the lifeless trunk of him on whom her every wish and happiness was founded.

The enemy are diligently repairing the 30<sup>th</sup> works on the isthmus---a shell fired from Willis's, this day, fell among a party of their workmen, about 50 or 60 in number, which we have the greatest reason to believe, did considerable mischief. The Spanish forts and lines continue the cannonade and bombardment. One soldier killed and two wounded, this day by the explosion of a shell.

31<sup>st</sup>. A brisk fire on both sides continues, and the enemy keep constantly at work--A strong party are employed near the centre-stone Guard-house, erecting a battery. The naval

val force "remains quiet, nor have we been troubled with the gun and mortar boats some Dec time past. 31st

This year has finished without giving the decisive stroke, though it has been successful on our part, and crowned our arms with glory and conquest. I hope the in next we shall be equally victorious, and convince the enemy, that Britons scorn controul.

I remain,

Dear Brother,

Affectionately yours.

## LETTER

A a

## LETTER XXVIII.

GIBRALTAR.

Dear BROTHER,

1782 **A**S all my letters are intended for your  
 Jan. information, I shall endeavour as far  
 1st. as I am able, to give you a description of  
 this envied and battered Rock, which has  
 excited the whole attention of Spain and  
 France.

GIBRALTAR is in 36 degrees and 7 min.  
 north latitude, it projects into the sea, and  
 is in length near a league from north to south,  
 in breadth irregular from half to 3-quarters  
 of a mile, its head is frequently hid in the  
 clouds. The summit of the rock is about  
 1400 feet perpendicular above the sea. It is  
 joined to the continent by a neck of low and  
 deep sand of the same breadth as the rock it-  
 self, but which widens considerably towards  
 the Spanish lines. This isthmus is near a  
 league in length and with the opposite coast  
 of Spain, forms a noble and safe bay 8 miles  
 over.

over. The hill is of such an irregular form, 1782 that when you are near it you cannot view the Jan. whole from any one part. Its head clearly it faces the E. from thence to the Moorish-Castle it fronts the N. forward as far as the signalhouse the N W it then takes a turn and continues to Europa point, due S. On account of this oblique situation when you approach the town from the inundation you can see no further of the rock than the Moorish Castle, and even in town your sight is bounded by the old Moorish wall [called by some Charles the fifth] After you have passed southport gate, and got upon the red sands, the town is hid from you, and all the hill to the N. of the signal house. The back of the hill is scalped and inaccessible, and this particular circumstance forms its chief strength. The head of the rock is almost perpendicular, and composed of white stone which is burnt for lime. The batteries facing the isthmus are very strong and snug, which are carried on from the summit of the rock, to the water's edge at the old Mole the extremity of which the Spaniards term it *una Bocca de Fugo*. The remains of the moorish castle are close to the batteries, at which place is the entrance into the lines ; above the lines is Willis's and the upper batteries. Under the castle is two batteries near



1782 near Crouchetts house and garden, lower Jan down and almost level with the water is the 1st. Grand battery, under which is Landport. Above the ruins of the towns appears the walls of the army hospital from which you have a view of the remains of Bethlehem barracks, formerly a Nunnery, the White Cloisters where the commissioners of the navy used to reside, formerly a monastery, and St. Francis where the Governor resides: The building, before the enemy fired, was plain, more convenient than elegant, but pleasantly situated near the bay, with a garden adjoining. The British church is adjacent to this building, but now divine service is performed on the South parade, on account of the enemy's cannonade. The Spanish church for the performance of the Roman Catholic religion, was near the Grand parade in the Green Market, the walls of which are yet standing. The inhabitants and soldiers repair to church by the beat of a drum. Near Southport stands the King's yard, Grand store, and Victualling office, which notwithstanding the enemy's bombardment, has not sustained any considerable injury. Above Southport outside of the gate, is the citadel. The garrison is bounded by strong walls, and several well executed batteries, particularly the King's, South, Montague's bastion, and Grand

Grand battery. The King's bastion is able 1782 to contain 1000 men, being bomb proof, Jan. and is of a noble construction, planned by 1st, General Boyde, when Governor of the Garrison.

The following is the state of the strength of the several corps now here.

Corps.	Strength.
<i>Royal Artillery</i> -	480
<i>12th</i> - - -	469
<i>39th</i> . . .	448
<i>56th</i> . . .	450
<i>58th</i> . . .	450
<i>72d</i> . . .	811
<i>73d</i> . . .	811
<i>Hardenberg's</i> . .	345
<i>Reden's</i> . .	347
<i>La Mott's</i> . .	356
<i>Artificier Company</i> -	89
<i>Total</i>	5056

Wind

1782 Wind E. This morning early the St. Jan. Phillip's Castle arrived here from Mahon 4th with dispatches, having 22 Spanish prisoners on board, taken by the English in a sally made from that place. They say that General Murray is very closely besieged, and that the forces under his command, make the most stubborn opposition against both the French and Spanish who lay before the castle.

The enemy on the isthmus keep repairing their works, and have got a great part rebuilt. The fire on each side briskly continues, but most spirited from the close of the evening until the dawn of the morning, as the chief part of their labours are executed during the night season.

8th A xebec arrived from the eastward this forenoon, and anchored opposite Sandy Bay. The working parties on the isthmus have not done any thing particular since the 4th instant.

10th Last night the St. Phillip's Castle sailed to the eastward, and a small boat, for Tetuan, in order to fetch supplies. All quiet in the Bay: We cannot imagine the reason that the enemy are not so alert and attentive as they were.

13th Wind E. Sailed the Henry and Mercury privateers to the west. None of the Spanish cruizers

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cruizers went in chace of them. The enemy 17<sup>82</sup> threw up a branch of sand-bag work last Jan. night upon the isthmus.

This day two cutters made their appear- 16<sup>th</sup> ance in the Gut. Wind N. E. The tower at Cabritta let fly a signal, upon which the Spanish Squadron got in motion, consisting of a frigate, one large xebec, one smaller ditto, and several gun boats, who stood across to intercept them. The gun boats got a-head and discharged several shot at them, which the cutters returned, and kept their course, standing for the eastward, it being impracticable to work into the port, as the wind blew right against them. The Spanish cruizers went in chace, and are now all out of fight. The works on the isthmus are going forward.

Antonio Juanico a Minorquen, convicted 17<sup>th</sup> of being a spy, is ordered for execution on the 4<sup>th</sup> of February ensuing,

The enemy fire upon us with great fury, to prevent our annoying their working parties. Several wounded this forenoon.

This being the anniversary of Her Majes- 18<sup>th</sup> ty's birth day, the Royal standard was hoisted on the flag-staff, and a salute of shot and shell fired on the enemy.

The town and southward regiments ex- 20<sup>th</sup> changed quarters this morning, to continue  
three



1782 three months, before another exchange takes Jan. place, unless circumstances should make it necessary.

23d The isthmus parties are laboriously employed in forwarding their works, and an incessant fire is kept up from the Spanish lines and forts, upon our works and parties on the hill, as we are repairing the breaches made, and constructing some additional fortification, to shelter our men, and to destroy, if possible, the enemy's approaches.

26th Pleasant weather. The enemy appear to be busy at Algaziras, and in the rivers. We imagine they are constructing additional gun boats there, to co-operate with those they already have. Isthmus working parties continue nightly to be employed.

29th Wind S. E. The two cutters chased to the eastward by the enemy on the 16th inst. got in early this morning: They prove to be the Viper and Lively, laden with ordnance stores, also arrived the Dartmouth, Tartar cutter, last from Lisbon in 3 days with dispatches. A frigate, xebec, and some gun boats have returned from their vain pursuit in chase of the Viper and Lively, mortified with having missed their eager prey, and anchored at their old station; watching every sail that appears in sight. The enemy are preparing several fire ships at the mouth of the

rivers between Algaziras and Orange Grove, 1782 but for what purpose we really cannot conjecture, without it is for pastime, and the re-creation of their naval and land forces, by reminding them that they are inclinable to do mischief, though incapable of effecting it. Our shipping are all boom'd in, and without they intend to burn the clefts of the rocks, and set our sandy beach on fire, they had better keep their present distance, nor unthinkingly rush on, where certain ruin must be the inevitable consequence. Our garrison are pretty healthy, considering the hardships, dangers, and scarcity of fresh diet, which at present prevails; but of late, they have been very much afflicted with the most inveterate scurvy, which deprived a great many of the use of their limbs, by rendering them stiff and swelled. The flesh of the sufferers, I assure you, was almost black, and you would pity, were you a spectator, to view them limping to their post to partake of a share of their comrades, in opposing the foe. With every good wish, permit me to subscribe myself

Your loving Brother.

## LETTER XXIX.

GIBRALTAR.

Dear BROTHER,

F-82 THE besiegers spurred on by hope and  
 Feb. expectation, to work the reduction of  
 ist this fortress, are indefatigably employed in  
 forwarding the re-construction of St. Carlos,  
 and the adjacents--From their batteries they  
 continue a plentiful discharge of ordnance,  
 from which we now and then loose a man.  
 We anxiously long for the day of attack, as  
 our situation is rather deplorable in respect to  
 provision, and the harrassing duties of guards,  
 picquets, working detachments and parties,  
 forwards the general wish for engagement.  
 The constant duty with the soldiery is ten  
 and eleven days and nights up, and probably  
 when it comes to your turn to have a night to  
 sleep in your tent, the enemy from the sea  
 line disturbs you from that repose, but thank  
 God we have not been much interrupted  
 from that quarter of late.

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Prices of provision brought by the Viper and 1782  
Lively, Cutters, on the 29th last month. Feb.

Common green Tea per lb.	£.1	1	0	1st
Hams per lb	0	3	2	
Corn'd Beef ditto	0	1	8	
Port Wine per dozen	1	14	5	
A Sheep	14	1	0	
Cheese per lb	0	4	10 $\frac{1}{2}$	
Butter ditto	0	4	10 $\frac{1}{2}$	

The enemy carry on their works in a rapid 4th manner, they last night erected a battery of five ambrazures on the west side of the Mill Tower St Carlos, from what we can discern, from the heights of the rock, appears to have received a complete repair. Our batteries endeavour as much as possible, to prevent the executing of their labours on the isthmus.

Antonio Juanico, ordered for execution this day is respited. Arrived from the westward two small vessels from Portugal, laden with lemons and oranges a very refreshing supply.

A small boat that appeared off Cabrita point, was fired at several times from the battery at that place, but without effect, upon this a Spanish lugger got under sail endeavouring to cut her off but to very little purpose, as the boat had nearly anchored before she had got half



1782 half bay over. She proves to be a Portuguese laden with fruit and oranges.

10th The enemy's cruizers have been particularly busy all this day, ruoning in and out alternately. We imagine they have received information of some vessel bound for this place. They on the land side keep working & firing.

15th Arrived safe the Young Sabine, with porter, wine, and potatoes--- Our men of war's boats towed her round Europa. It is confidently asserted that she has brought intelligence to the Governor of a very interesting nature, but we cannot learn the particulars. The Spanish cruizers were disappointed in missing the capture of this vessel, as all their attempts to effect it was rendered ineffectual.

16th Arrived the brig Eliza, with sondry articles on board, for the use of the garrison. The Spanish cruizers, who returned yesterday evening to Algaziras, made a signal too late, to do themselves any service; but to convince the world how valiant and daring they were, they kept cruizing in the bay with all the pomp of line of battle ships, and came very near the guns at Europa, but thought prudent to keep at a distance, lest an unfortunate shot should dispossess them of all their imaginary glory.

The Spanish works are briskly forwarded  
the

the isthmus almost is become a scene of enchantment--the enemy certainly must employ a considerable number of men, or otherwise they could not make such a rapid execution.

Wind N. W. This morning a sail appeared standing from the westward; the Spanish towers let fly a signal of an enemy's appearance--a frigate, xebec, and several gun boats, immediately got under way, while the battery at Cabbritta Point fired several rounds. The xebec bore down, when the cutter opened upon her and made her haul her wind, and soon afterwards she dropped a stern, the frigate and gun boats then stood a cross to intercept her, which she as spiritedly engaged, receiving two broad-sides from the frigate, and several rounds of grape from the gun-boats. After having engaged a considerable time, such a superior force she had the good fortune to get in without much damage, and proves to be the Flying-Fish, Cutter, in eight days from England, laden with ordnance stores.--Some of the enemy's boats having been drove very near the garrison, the batteries at Europa discharged a few shot at them, but plying their oars briskly they got off without any injury, as we could observe.

Wind

1782. Wind S. W. Last night a brig from the Feb. westward entered the bay and observing the 18th lights in the Spanish camp, steered for that place, imagining it was the town of Gibraltar. The Captain continued his course until he came opposite to Prince Orange's battery, when the officer on duty there, challenged the ship, who answered "From Corke." The captain discovering his error, and finding he was running under the enemy's batteries, put about, and run aground at the back of the Old Mole, where Fort Philippe and the Black Battery, kept up a fire upon her. The Hibernian Captain in a jocular manner, endeavoured to apologize for his misconduct, by saying, "By J--us, he intended to run his ship up to his merchant's store-house, having heard, when at Corke, that we had burnt all the Spanish batteries and spiked up their guns, and that he imagined he might anchor in any part of the bay with safety." This was alluding to the sally made 27th of November, 1781, which was so much noised throughout England and Ireland, and by way of reminding us, that we had not done as much as was boasted in the papers. She has brought a supply of butter, pork, and potatoes, which is intended to be landed, if possible, this night. Her name is the Governor Eliott, Samuel Seldon Master.

This

This morning we observed a battery of 1782 12 ambrazures constructed on the isthmus, Feb. and in other parts the sand was thrown up as 20th a cover. The enemy fired very warmly on the Governor Eliott brig, and have greatly damaged her. Part of her cargo has been landed--a brisk fire continues on both sides.

A Portugueze schooner from the west, was taken between Tarifa and Cabritta point, and brought into Algaziras, where there is not any doubt she will be condemned. The wind having sprung up easterly, a Tartar arrived from Leghorn, with a cargo of wine, and useful necessaries. Several gun boats also arrived from the east, we imagine them to be the remainder that chased the two Cutters on the 16th of January.

Wind E. Sailed last night from hence, 21st the Viper, Lively, and Dartmouth Tartar cutters. About an hour afterwards the Spanish towers were illuminated, and a number of rockets thrown up. The enemy keep hard and constantly at work on the isthmus.

Wind W. This morning the shipping at 23d Algaziras was dressed with full colours, and at noon a *feu de joye* was fired on both land and sea, and repeated three times.

A ship appeared in the offing, standing for this place, when a frigate and xebec made ready



1782 ready. She continued her course and received their fire with great intrepidity, plying her guns in an heroic manner. After about an hours fire she got in, and proves to be the Mercury transport, from Lisbon, with wine, poultry and fruit.

24th Wind W. Arrived at Algaziras from the westward, two xebecs, and two cutters, as a reinforcement to the Spanish squadron on that station. The Spanish working parties are busily employed.

25th Wind W. Arrived the St. Ann of 28 guns in 12 days from London, with ordnance stores. Not any particular intelligence received, except that she was chased some leagues to the westward, and escaped during the night.

28th Wind E. Arrived the Indian King, from Leghorn, with timber and liquors, a brisk fire on both sides was kept up. The enemy continue laboriously working on the isthmus, forwarding with all possible expedition, their new approaches. The tedious Siege familiarizes more and more every day, and our eager and anxious expectations no longer, impatiently excite to battle, as the foe discovers not any inclination, to attack our walls only by 26 pounders, and 13 inch shells, from which probably they hope to effect a capitulation, but while they remain at that distance,

ance, all their efforts will prove but impoten-1782  
 cy, and until they can level by their fire, the Feb.  
 heights of the hard and solid rock, they never 28th  
 will accomplish the capture of the garrison.  
 You may perceive by the following lines,  
 which I penned behind a traverse at Willis's yester-  
 day how contented we are in our situation.

While peaceful flocks in verdant meadows graze,

Supply their wants, and slumber at their ease;

Now skip and sport, and each contented feed,

And one by one are destined to bleed.

But here—'midst hardships, soldiers ne'er repine,

But with the pomp of war sits down to dine;

To feast upon an ounce of salted beef,

Which at the most affords but small relief;

No sparkling wine to animate or cheer.

Nor pint, nor pot, of British home brew'd beer,

But pickled beef and water is our fare;

Coop'd up like pastur'd sheep, within the walls,

And one by one cut off by shells and balls.

C c

Here

1782 Here two or three together meet for mirth,  
Feb. And seat themselves behind a \*bank of  
28th earth;

Here bread and water chearfully goes  
round,

And grass, got on the rock, for sallad  
found;

Sometimes brown toast, and vinegar sup-  
plies

The place of punch, and crowns our sel-  
tive joys.

Thus happy in our sports each other cheer,  
In God we place our trust, nor danger  
fear,

With heart and hand, the walls and bat-  
t'ries man,

Live hard, fight, watch, do all that Britons  
can!

I remain,

Dear Brother,

Affectionately yours.

\* The meaning of the expression of "a bank of earth," is  
large casks placed 3 deep, and filled with earth and stones,  
which is called a traverse, and is a shelter from cannon  
balls.

LETTER

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GIBRALTAR.

Dear BROTHER,

**T**HE fortune of war, and the casuals of 1782  
life are equally changeable, the victors Mar  
of one day are often defeated another, and if  
lose those laurels that were carried in triumph  
from the field of slaughter. The fate of  
Minorca was announced here this morning,  
by a flag of truce from the Orange Grove,  
who brought the intelligence of that fortress  
having surrendered to His Catholic Majesty's  
forces, and that the *fue de joye*, fired on the  
23d of February, was in celebration of the  
conquest. It is not improbable but the ene-  
my entertain lively notions of this place,  
and imagine that this piece of information  
may tend to depress our spirits, and facilitate  
their future operations against us.

We



1782 We kept up a very hot fire all the fore-  
Mar. noon, and set the enemy's works in a blaze,  
1st which they extinguished shortly afterwards.

2d This morning our batteries directed their  
fire upon the enemy's advanced works on  
the isthmus, when a heavy and incessant  
cannonade was spiritedly maintained between  
the enemy and the garrison, 'till 9 o'clock,  
during which time, we had the fortune to  
set their works on fire again. The foe ma-  
nifested a valour, and in an intrepid manner,  
jumped upon the glacis, pouring baskets of  
sand upon the flames, when after much  
difficulty and danger they got it put out.

4th Wind E. Last night the Flying Fish cutter,  
sailed to the westward with dispatches. The  
enemy keep advancing their approaches to-  
wards the garrison. The cannonade but  
slack these two days.

5th Arrived Patron Pratts from Algiers, with  
sheep and wine, the former sells at a most e-  
normous and exorbitant price. The enemy's  
parties on the isthmus work excessively hard,  
and bring forward their approaches with dis-  
patch--they have almost reached into our late  
gardens.

Garrison orders.

*"The town guards to mount at half past 6,  
and the South guards at 7 o'clock, till further  
orders."*

The

The enemy having been very remiss in 1782 cannonading the town, it is imagined was the Mar. occasion of the Governor altering the hour 6th of relieving the guards.

The enemy keep working and moderately 9th firing by which Lieut. Cuppage of the Royal Artillery was this day wounded--all quiet on the sea side.

Garrison orders.

*" Rations of Provision from 11th March, 1782.*

*" Bread 7lb beef 2lb & half, pork 1lb. butter 6 oz cheese 8 oz. pease 3 pints, oatmeal 2 pints wheat 2 pints & quarter, in lieu of 1 pint of pease and one of oatmeal, vinegar a quarter of a pint. No alteration in the ration of the hospitals."*

The enemy indicate fresh preparation for 10th the ensuing storm, several parties being employed this morning, clearing ground for a reinforcement of troops--a number of tents are already pitched. A xebec which came near the garrison had several rounds fired at her, which compelled her to sheer off. We discharged a number of carcasses upon the enemy's isthmus works, with an intent to burn them, but did not meet with the completion of our wishes.

The

1782 The enemy work most assiduously, and Mar. have raised a very high and well-planned 16th breast-work, supposed by our Engineers and Artillerists to be intended for a Mortar battery.

This day arrived at Algaziras, a frigate from the westward, but not any salute was given,

The enemy's fire these three days, has been particularly spirited, by which we have had some few wounded, among whom is Lieut. White of the 56th regiment. Our batteries are now bravely playing upon the foe.

17th Southerly wind. Two frigates having come within the reach of our prams, anchored off New Mole--they began a well directed and furious fire upon them. One of the frigates, 'twas observed, received several shot.

18th Our fishing boats were drove out of the bay this morning by a xebec, who kept a gentle sail, until by her repeated firings, she made them all retreat to the shore. The inhumanity of this act, is greater to be conceived than expressed. Few instances are to be found that bears any similitude to such an unprecedented proceeding. The Spaniards are forwarding their works, and discharging their ordnance upon us.

The

The bridge at Landport is ordered to be <sup>1782</sup> pulled down, and the communication to that Mar. post will be through the Sallyport in the ditch. 19th where there is to be a temporary stage made, for the purpose of detachments passing and repassing from the covered way, and outguards, Also one of the slopes by which the guards, and centinels now ascends to their posts, is also to be levelled. An encampment was began this morning on the west of the Orange Grove. We expect the Siege will quickly come to an issue from the preparations, making by the foe.

Last night about eleven o'clock, a mill, on <sup>22d</sup> Windmill hill, constructed for the purpose of grinding the wheat sent over from England, by some means took fire, and was consumed. The enemy are very busy with some shipping, which is imagined are intended for *fire floats*.

Wind W. Last night arrived the Vernon store ship, with materials for gun boats, what we have long wished for. The Success frigate escorted her to *lat.* 36. when she left her and returned to England. The Success, on her passage took the St. Catalina, a Spanish frigate, who afterwards was burnt on the appearance of the Cerberus and Apollo frigates, and 4 transports, that came in also during the night, having on board the 97th Regiment, as a reinforcement to the garrison.

Three



1782 Three very large ships and four xebecs, Mar. arrived at Algaziras, imagined to be laden with stores and provision.

25th This forenoon our flag of truce carried to Orange Grove, some officers and men, put on board the Vernon, belonging to the St. Catalina frigate. The enemy continue their usual working parties. From ten o'clock last night, till break this morning, a brisk fire was maintained with determined resolution, between Forts Barbary, Phillippe, and the batteries on the heights of the hill.

30th The enemy's ships and forts fired several rounds alternately. It is supposed the rejoicing is (on account of this being Passion-saturday) in celebration of our Saviour's resurrection. The Spanish working parties have not done any quantity work of to day.

31st This morning the batteries at Willis's and Montague's Bastion, opened with martial rage upon the isthmus works, Wind N. W. a very fresh breeze. Shot and shells were incessantly discharged, when one of the latter having penetrated into the facines, immediately set that part in a flame, which continued burning untill about 30 yards was consumed. The flames spread in a rapid manner and the enemy did all they could to prevent the progress of the fire, nor could they extinguish it by any means, but was under  
the

the necessity of cutting an opening, as the 1782  
only remedy to secure their approaches from Mar.  
being again destroyed. 31st

The troops in the camp of Santa Roque,  
came out of their tents to view the spirited  
action, while only the flash of guns, and  
exploding shells were to be seen; the isth-  
mus, and northermost part of the rock being  
hid with the clouds of smoke.

Yours, &c.

Dd LETTER

LETTER XXXI.

*“ Who like the Cur barks at the crowd that  
passes ? ”*

GIBRALTAR.

Dear BROTHER,

1782 **S**UCH is the disposition of our inveterate  
Apr. and malignant foes, every ship, settee,  
1st or bark that appears, immediately a gun is  
discharged, and a cruizer sent out to inter-  
rogate, “ From whence come ye, or Where  
are ye bound ? ” A Swedish vessel was  
brought into Algaziras yesterday evening  
for not bringing too, upon a gun being fired  
from a double galley off the Point.

Arrived

Arrived a vessel from Portugal with nine-1782  
ty sheep, during the course of the night. Apr.

This morning a soldier deserted from 1st  
Landport Guard, and received the fire of  
musquetry of all the centinels, but without  
effect. The Spanish working parties are  
diligently employed.

Last night a Spanish deserter came in, and 2d  
reports that the soldier that deserted yest-  
terday, was wounded by our fire, and died  
in the greatest agony, in the Mill battery,  
(or St. Carlos.) This forenoon a great ma-  
ny tents was pitched east side of the Horse  
barracks, and some squadrons of infantry  
marched in.

The encampment west of the Orange 9th  
Grove is taken possession of by troops; but  
they do not appear to be very numerous, or  
perhaps they are tired with their march o-  
ver the mountains, and keep their tents as a  
relaxation from their fatigue. The enemy  
cannonade the garrison excessively warm,  
three men and a boy wounded at Willis's.

The encampment pitched yesterday is 10th  
hourly increasing in the number of tents, but  
not any considerable body of troops appear.  
The enemy fired very hot this morning, and  
a shell which fell in Landport Ditch, just as  
the new guard came to relieve the old one,  
killed Lieut. Whitham, of the 12th Regi-  
ment,



1782 ment, wounded his servant who was on the Apr. right of the guard, and blew the Drummers 10th drum in pieces. He was an amiable officer, and well respected, the loss of him is much regretted by all ranks in the garrison.

Six lug sail boats arrived from the westward, from their form and construct on we apprehend they are intended for landing of troops. Every thing now indicates a speedy and vigorous assault. Our enemies are seemingly prepared for immediate battle, their isthmus works being almost completed.

11th Wind W. Arrived a boat from Portugal with goats, fowls, &c. The patron brings intelligence that ships and floating batteries are fitting up in the port of Cadiz, lined with Cork and Oakum, whose strength are to turn a cannon ball, and that when Duke de Crillon arrives with his conquering, valiant, and successful troops from the glorious expedition at Minorca, he is to take the command of the forces, and head the army in their attack upon this place. He says, that from the accounts received in Portugal, the people of Spain, look upon the Duke's conduct with admiration, and expect that those that join him will be invulnerable.

15th Arrived a large cutter at Algaziras, from the west. The enemy have brought forward

Beside  
and c

ward their approaches considerably towards 1782 the garrison. A general discharge of ord- Apr. nance & evails.

Wind S. W. Two large xebecs arrived 16th this forenoon on the opposite side, and several small settees, all from the westward.

The enemy's force now consists of

3 frigates	}	At Algaziras.
4 large xebecs		
1 cutter		
1 bomb ketch		

1 large xebec	}	At Orange Grove.
1 cutter		
1 lugger		
1 bomb ketch		

1 large xebec	}	At Cabritta.
1 small do.		
1 sloop of war		

15 gun boats	}	In the rivers.
8 mortar boats		
10 or 12 fire ships		

Beside what shipping they have at Ceuta, and cruizing to the eastward.

Landport

1782 Landport bridge is taken down, and it is Apr. reported that both the slopes are to be levelled, and only a timber ascent made, that in case of any emergence may be set on fire, to prevent the enemy's entrance into the ditch under Grand Battery.

Our working parties are employed in erecting splinter-proofs upon the batteries on the hill, as a cover from the bomb shells when they explode in the air, which the Spaniards have practised of late.

20th Wind N. W. This morning upon a ship being discovered by the enemy in the offing, they hoisted a signal on the tower at Cabritta, which not being answered, a xebec, and sloop that lay at the Point, slipped out, and bore down under a pressure of sail.---- The xebec having got a-head, fired a broadside at her, which was directly returned by the ship; the sloop now came up, and fired a few guns, notwithstanding which, she continued her course, and got safe in, without any loss. She proves to be the Antigallican store-ship, in eight days from Falmouth. The enemy, apparently, are not so attentively employed on the isthmus as formerly.

21st The regiments in the town and southward, exchanged quarters this forenoon.

Very

Very little work done by the enemy---1782  
The gun boats brought over by the Vernon, Apr.  
are getting in great forwardness in the New 21st  
Mole yard.

Several parties employed daily in bring- 22d.  
ing fascines into the Spanish camp. We  
suppose that the want of these materials has  
been the occasion of their ceasing from  
work these three days. Forts Barbary and  
Phillippe, the Black Battery and lines, fired  
this afternoon, minute guns, with shot up-  
on the Garrison.

This forenoon an experimental tryal was 24th  
made with one of the gun boats, mounted  
with an 18 pounder. The first and second  
shot fired horizontally recouched three or  
four times; the third had a degree of ele-  
vation, and went a distance in the bay. The  
Naval Commander promises great success  
from them, when the twelve is finished.  
All hands busy at work upon them.

This morning early a deserter from the 25th  
Volunteers of Argon came in, and confirms  
a former account of ships being preparing  
for the purpose of attacking this garrison,  
lined with cork and junk to prevent the pe-  
netration of our shot. A few working par-  
ties again appear on the isthmus, but their  
labours is executed under cover.

This



1782 This day one of our long boats going from Apr. Ragged Staff to the New Mole with iron, 27th sprung a plank and went to the bottom, unfortunately a man and a boy was drowned.

28th Wind W. S. W. This morning two ships brig rigged, appeared in the Gut, with their heads standing to the east---The Spanish towers made a signal of an enemy being at hand, upon which two xebecs, and 8 gun-boats went out, in order to secure them, but were unexpectedly disappointed, they proving to belong to the French. The rapidity of the current, and the wind having shifted to the N. W. the xebecs and gun-boats drove to the eastward.

30th The enemy's works appear to be executed according to their wishes, for notwithstanding we only now and then discharge a few rounds of shot and shells, they have not taken the opportunity of doing any work. In the Spanish camp, a numerous army are seen--the whole common at the foot of Santa Roque, is become a town and place of habitation, where a grand display of slaughtering instruments are exhibited, and the most renowned engineers, experienced artilleryists, and approved soldiers and seamen, are bent upon our extirpation from this heart-galling rock. That their views and intentions may be frustrated, is the sincere and hearty wish of  
Your affectionate Brother.

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LETTER XXXII.

GIBRALTAR.

Dear BROTHER,

EVERY opportunity that offers of writing to you, I readily embrace, and may find an infinite satisfaction in the employ. 3d The reciprocal affection that has so long subsisted between us; pleasingly excites the labour of my pen; and conscious that your bosom feels for my absence and situation, I should consider myself unpardonable in any omission.

The enemy continue the Siege, and are getting in forwardness the most studious preparations for an attack. It is beyond dispute that the contention will shortly be finally adjusted.

1782

Garrison orders.

May " *Rations of provision from 6th May, 1782,*  
 3<sup>d</sup> " *7lb Bread, 2-lb, and half beef, 1lb pork,*  
*6 ounces of butter, quarter pint of oil, 3 pints*  
*of pease, 2 pints of oatmeal, 2 pints and quar-*  
*ter wheat, 1 pint and quarter vinegar.*

" *Hospital. 7lb Bread, 2lb and half beef,*  
*1lb pork, 6 ounces of butter, quarter pint of*  
*oil, 6 pints of oatmeal, half-pint of rice, half-*  
*pound raisins."*

8th Last night Wind E. Sailed the Cerberus and Apollo frigates, St. Ann, Vernon. Mercury, and Antigallican storeships, the Betsey, Thompson, Loyal Briton, and Valiant transports, at which time two Spanish frigates and three xebecs were cruising in the gut. They had not been long under sail, when rockets were thrown up at Algaziras, and answered at Cabritta Point. About an hour after a cannonading was heard in the gut, and continued for some time tolerably brisk; and this morning we had the mortification to view the enemy, returning with the three last named transports, being the only defenceless vessels that sailed from hence. Their sails were very much torn, and it is supposed the enemy alone directed their fire upon them, not liking to attack the storeships.

they

they having a formidable appearance in the 1782 night. Thus victorious they entered the May bay in triumph, and conducted their prizes 8th (manned only with about 21 men) to the port of Algaziras, there to recount the dangers of the battle, and to regale themselves with the spoil.

Wind W. S. W. This forenoon arrived 9th from the westward, one line of battle ship, convoying eight large store-ships or Indiamen. From the appearance of their rigging and sides, which is dry and shabby, and having but a few hands on board, we cannot imagine from what part they have arrived, or what occasion brought them in here. All hands busy about the Spanish camp.

Wind S. E. Arrived a Portuguese settee, 10th from Tetuan, with about 30,000 oranges, and a few pipes of oil. She was cleared out for Cadiz, but smuggled herself in here, where they will find a good market for their cargo.---Oranges are sold for a rial each, about 4d. 3-farthings sterling.

The eight large ships that arrived over the 13th way the 9th inst. are hauled close to the shore and are unrigging, and those that arrived on the 24th March have proceeded to the Orange Grove. It is currently reported that they are lined with cork, and are to be converted



1782 converted into batteries, but most people May think that they are more fit for fire-wood, than attacking a fortress.

15th The store-ships at Algaziras are quite unrigged, and a great many hands employed upon them clearing their decks. The land fire is maintained with spirit, but very little work seemingly going forward on the isthmus.

20th Last night three soldiers in attempting to desert from the heights of the rock, fell from a precipice, and were found dead under the sugar-loaf, lying near each other. They had procured a rope and fastened it to a cleft of the rock, but it was not of a sufficient length to reach to the bottom.

22d Arrived a xebec and a galley, from the westward, at Algaziras. The enemy are employed upon two of the store-ships cutting their sides down.

25th The enemy continue working on the two store ships at Algaziras, and appear to be thick'ning with pieces of timber and other materials, their larboard sides—several ports have been already cut: From this it is evident they are intended for floating batteries. Wind E. The other store ships that lay at the Orange Grove, sailed from thence to the westward, having discharged their lading,

ding, which is supposed to be ordnance stores. 1782 May

Arrived the St. George xebec, with a small supply from Leghorn, having on board 12 Corsicans, including one officer, who have voluntarily come to offer their service in the defence of this place. They mention that several more are preparing to embark on the same expedition.

Arrived the John Tartan, from Leghorn, 26th with a supply of wine and oil. She brings intelligence that we may be assured of a vigorous attack, as soon as the Spanish ships are ready, which will be made so strong, and of such a nature, that they will neither burn nor batter.

The Spanish Hospital last night took fire, and is entirely consumed.

Wind S. E. Yesterday evening near one hundred sail of transports, and a bomb-ketch, arrived and anchored between Algeziras and Orange Grove, and this morning we perceived they were very full of men, which are supposed to be troops.

A considerable body of troops were landed from the transports this forenoon, and marched into the Spanish camp. The enemy have hauled two transports in, and have begun unrigging them. The two large ships

1782 ships that the enemy have been working at, May have each of them 14 or 15 port-holes cut in their larboard sides.

28th A flag of truce was received from Spain, but her message is meer conjecture with the public. Some say, she has brought a demand from the Spanish General, for the surrendering of the Fortress; but this, I am confident, never will be done, while we have an ounce of bread, and a round of ammunition.

30th

#### Garrison Orders.

*"Rations of provision from 3d June, 1782.*

*" 7lb Bread, 2 pounds and half beef, 1lb of pork, 6 ounces of butter, quarter of a pint of oil, 2 pints of pease, 2 pints of oatmeal, quarter pint of vinegar.*

*" Hospital as last month."*

An English Tartan was taken to the eastward and towed by the enemy into Algazinas with her colours reversed. It is asserted that the vessel is the one that Patron Pratt's sailed from this port some time past to Algiers for supplies.

Our 12 gun boats in New Mole yard are nearly finished; several are already in the water, and lye very snug--We are very anxious

ious to make trial of them with the enemy. 1782  
A boat went out this day under a flag of May  
truce into the bay, with the Governor's an- 30th  
swer to theirs, received the 28th inst.

The ships at Algaziras are getting pretty  
forward; a number of hands are employed  
upon them, but most of the garrison are of  
opinion from their construction, that they  
will be found of very little use when they  
attack our walls, as they never will be able  
to tow them near enough to do any material  
execution, for should they daringly come on,  
their boats will be inevitably cut off by grape  
shot from the garrison.

We shall have pretty sport soon--I hope  
to survive to send you an account of the par-  
ticulars, wherein a victorious repulse, I  
trust, will be found; and probably before  
you receive this letter, the battle will have  
taken place and the contest be decided.

With a heart glowing with zeal for the  
honor of my King, the welfare of Britain,  
and her Dependencies, permit me to con-  
clude, with the most brotherly love and  
esteem,

Yours, &c.

LETTER



## LETTER XXXIII.

GIBRALTAR.

Dear BROTHER,

1782 **T**HE enemy labour constantly at equip-  
 June ping the store-ships for service--from  
 1st the lights observed at Algaziras last night;  
 we imagine they were busy at work---the  
 masts of most of them are taken out.

This morning died here, Brigadier Ge-  
 neral Stanton, of the 97th regiment.

3d Wind E. This day a convoy of near fifty  
 sail of different sizes, arrived from the east-  
 ward at Algaziras, with stores and provision  
 for the use of their navy and army. The  
 cannonade continues pretty brisk on both  
 sides, but we have had only a few wound-  
 ed.

Garrison

Garrison orders.

1782

*"The Royal Standard to be hoisted to-morrow—The Governor desires to meet all the Officers not on duty, on their respective parades, at guard mounting to-morrow, to congratulate with them on the anniversary of His Majesty's birth-day."*

*"Such ordnance to be fired at the enemy's works, as shall be ordered by the Commanding Officer of the Royal Artillery, beginning at one o'clock."*

The Royal standard was hoisted this morning on the flag-staff in town, and on board the Brilliant in New Mole—at one o'clock the Northernmost batteries fired 44 rounds of shot and shells upon the enemy's forts and works, in honor of His Majesty's birth-day. The shipping in the New Mole, and our 12 gun boats arranged in a line from the Tanks to the Pier of the New Mole Head, also performed a salute, and gave three cheers. The enemy maintained a brisk fire the whole day. The floating batteries (or cork-ships) at Algaziras, are forwarding with all possible diligence.

A hot fire from the land batteries, upon our works and parties, which is as spiritedly returned from our heights.

F f

Captain

1782 Captain Wideburg, of Reden's regiment of Hanoverians, was wounded this day.

6th The Spaniards have a great many hands employed upon seven ships at Algaziras; most of them have ports cut in their sides, but none of them appear to be finished.

7th This forenoon our Artillery had some *red hot shot* experimental practice, at a vessel wrecked off Prince Orange's battery, which succeeded pretty well. An unfortunate accident happened by a gun unexpectedly going off, which killed the gunner in the embrasure, and wounded three other men. A constant fire from the Rock Gun, upon the enemy's works on the isthmus.

#### Garrison Orders.

*"One quarter and half of a pint of vinegar to be issued to every ration, till further orders."*

The surgeons of the different corps are of opinion, that this will be a great preventive in the sad effects of the scurvy.

10th The men employed upon the seven floating batteries, work with the greatest assiduity, but as yet we cannot form any judgment of their utility or construction.

Early this morning the Spanish gun and mortar boats made an excursion in the bay

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and discharged their ordnance upon the gar-1782  
rison--They fired very warm for an hour and June  
three quarters, during which time we had 10th  
several men wounded. A soldier is missing,  
supposed to have deserted.

This forenoon a 13 inch shell fired from 11th  
the enemy's works, fell upon a Magazine on  
Princess Ann's battery, where there was ma-  
ny men at work and on duty; it forced its  
way through the splinter-proof which cover-  
ed the magazine door, burst it open, and in  
the explosion blew up the magazine. Our  
loss on this occasion is as follows, viz. 15 men  
killed, and 21 wounded, some of them in a  
dangerous way. Scarce had the explosion  
taken place, when the enemy began a can-  
nonnade and bombardment, from every bat-  
tery they had any ordnance mounted in,  
particularly directed to the place where the  
accident had happened: The garrison kept  
pouring upon them heavy discharges of shot  
and shells, which they sustained with the  
firmest resolution.

The man missing the 10th inst. was taken  
this day by a party of men at the back of the  
rock, and sent on board the *Provost ship*,  
a place of safe confinement, as we have not  
a garrison goal.

The enemy labour excessive hard at their 13th  
cork ships; their whole intention seems to  
be



1782 be engaged in their equipment. It is supposed that in five or six weeks they will be 13th completed and ready for action, but the enemy will never be able to get them off, whenever they cast anchor against the walls, so that if they are not successful in taking the place, they will be compelled to abandon them to our cannonade.

This day a soldier deserted from a guard at Landport--the centinels fired at him, but he made his escape.

14th Wind E. A French frigate conveying a number of small craft, arrived on the enemy's side from the eastward. About two this afternoon a Spanish xebec was becalmed near the garrison. The Southward batteries, and Prams at New Mole Head fired upon her, and Captain Curtis of the Brilliant, with 12 gun boats rowed out towards the xebec. She discovering her dangerous situation, fired a gun, as a signal for assistance, while our 12 gun-boats kept constantly raking her. The enemy sent over several small cruizers to her relief, when unluckily a breeze sprang up, and they towed her out of the reach of our guns. Had it continued a calm much longer, she must have been under the necessity of striking.

15th The xebec that we engaged yesterday, is observed to be upon her keel, repairing the damages she received from our fire.

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Wind E. A settee from the eastward was 1782 carried into Algaziras under English colours June by a Spanish cruizer; in all probability she 17th was laden with cattle for the garrison, which is much wanting and sells at a great price, beef 4s 10<sup>d</sup> per lb. and mutton 5s. and 5s. 2d. you may judge the scarcity when a bullock before he is killed, almost every pound of him is purchased, and the liver sold for 1s. 3d. per pound at the slaughter-house door, where a crowd of women and children mostly are fighting for the same; it being termed by us, a dainty dish when fried. A bullock's head, without a tongue, has been sold for seven dollars and a half, which is according to the exchange of money 1l. 3s. 4<sup>d</sup>. and the tongue for 8s. 1<sup>d</sup>.

#### Garrison Orders.

*"When the advanced gun boats discover the approach of the enemy's gun boats, they will fire a gun, and burn several false fires. If they should observe the approach of boats, which they suppose to contain troops, they will fire a gun, and throw up several rockets, when the men of war will beat to arms, and if the drummers of the Guards and Garrison have not beat to arms before, they will immediately take it up from the frigates."*

Yesterday

1782. Yesterday evening Wind W. a ship of the  
 Juneline, 3 large store ships, and 8 other vessels  
 18th arrived at Algaziras from the westward. It  
 is the general opinion of the garrison that  
 the three large ships are for the purpose of  
 making floating batteries, to co-operate with  
 those now preparing over the way, as they  
 are hauled in under the land.

This afternoon Wind S E. three frigates  
 and between 70 and 80 transports under  
 French colours, with troops on board ar-  
 rived and anchored on the enemy's side. We  
 conjecture they have brought a reinforce-  
 ment of near 6000 men. Our prams fired  
 several shot at four of the enemy's gun boats  
 that came within reach of the guns--a shot  
 went through the sail of the head-moost when  
 they made off.

20th The troops arrived in the French trans-  
 ports have began disembarking, several boats  
 already landed at the pier of the Orange  
 Grove. A vessel with a Spanish ensign above  
 the English was carried into Algaziras. The  
 enemy are busy in unrigging the three last  
 store ships, and cutting down their sides.  
 The fire from the land side continues.

21st A boat came over last night from Algaziras  
 with two men, taken in the scuttee on the the  
 17th, they cut the boat adrift and made their  
 escape. They report that the Spaniards are in  
 high



high spirits, and good expectation, from ten 1782  
cork ships which are getting ready with all June  
possible expedition whose strength and form 21st  
will be impregnable both against shot and  
shells. We shall of course find stubborn  
work with them.

The French troops finished landing this  
day, and are encamped on the left of the  
Spanish army, they take up a considerable a  
tract of ground. From accounts received the  
enemy's land forces are now 30,000 strong.

The Spaniards are very busy on their ten 22d  
cork ships, and have cut down the sides of  
the three latter arrived. The land batteries  
have not discharged many shot this day, from  
which we imagine they are contemplating  
other works.

The enemy have been silent these three 24th  
days past, every thing on the isthmus wears  
a different appearance. It is imagined that a  
new arrangement of affairs has taken place;  
and that Duke de Crillon, succeeds General  
Alvarez in command. The enemy are still  
employed on the floating batteries.

All quiet on the isthmus excepting now 27th  
and then a shot for diversion, which some-  
times we return and sometimes not. Our  
Governor has taken this opportunity of re-  
pairing and strengthening the works and bat-  
teries.



1782eries. Several strong working parties employed to the northward.

29th Little fire from the enemy. The floating batteries are forwarded with incredible expedition. The enemy have began forming something over the deck of one of them, intended we suppose for a splinter proof, time will manifest the use of it.

I remain,

Dear Brother,

Affectionately yours.

LETTER

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## L E T T E R XXXIV.

GIBRALTAR

Dear BROTHER,

**T**HE enemy on the land side, observe a 1782 great tranquillity, but for what reason July we cannot determine, unless they are reserving their ammunition for the day of attack. On our part we are well satisfied, as it affords us the opportunity of repairing the works that were shattered and damaged. This morning we fired 5 or 6 shells upon the enemy's works, which they answered with one shot.

The construction of the cover of one of the floating batteries, is much resembling the roof of a house; but at the distance they now are, I cannot pretend to give an exact description: The general opinion of the garrison is, that the enemy will find a great difficulty to bring them on, as they

G g

must

17<sup>32</sup> must be very heavy from the quantity of July timber. The regiments in the garrison have been practising several days firing ball from the line wall at a target in the sea.

3<sup>d</sup> One wing of the Spanish army struck their tents this morning, and removed to another part of the column, for convenience. Some few shot and shells from the enemy.

6<sup>th</sup> The floating batteries are not yet complete, they have began to sing a second, so that we suppose they will be all roofed. The enemy keep up a moderate cannonade.

#### Garrison orders.

*"The men will receive 6 ounces of raisins or currants, in lieu of a quarter of a pint of oil, till further orders."*

7<sup>th</sup> Wind W. Early this morning a brig from the westward was discovered in the channel—The Spanish towers hung out the signal of an enemy, when a xebec and four gunboats pushed out—the boats soon came up with her, and began a fire, which she returned and kept them off—the xebec then bore down and boarded her manfully, and shortly after we observed a Spanish ensign hoisted above the English. She was conducted in triumph

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triumph to A'gaziras. We feel a sensible 1782  
uneasiness in not having a force sufficient to July  
protect any vessel standing for the bay. It 7th  
must be very distressing after a vessel has es-  
caped crossing the sea, to be taken in sight of  
their destined port, and sometimes almost  
within the reach of the garrison guns.

This afternoon arrived from the westward,  
and anchored at Cabrita, a frigate and a  
xebec. We expect some other vessel is in  
sight of the coast.

The enemy continue working on the cork 10th  
ships, roofing them over, which makes them  
have a very odd appearance. A serjeant is  
missing, supposed to have deserted.

This afternoon four men belonging to one 11th  
of the P.ams, went in a boat to the enemy.  
We fired at them, but too late to prevent  
their escape. The serjeant missing on the  
10th, was found at the back of the rock, half  
way down, but for want of a rope could not  
get any further.

This morning a soldier deserted from 13th  
Queen's Lines Guard. A Prophet is taken  
up, and sent on board the *Provost ship*.  
Like Jonah warning the city of Ninneveh,  
so he publicly avowed that within six weeks,  
six days, and six hours from last saturday at  
12 o'clock, the garrison would be taken,  
and



1782 and the Governor killed. He is a soldier July belonging to the 73d regiment, and at the expiration of the time there, is not any doubt but he will suffer for his folly.

14th This morning came in a deserter from Spain: He says that there is 44 batallions in camp; that Duke de Crillon has made a thorough survey of all the works, and gone to Madrid to report to His Catholick Majesty. The enemy have not completed any of the floating batteries---they have began this morning, forming a boom across the harbour at Algaziras, for the protection of their shipping---We flatter ourselves that they are apprehensive of the arrival of our fleet.

16th Wind W. The French convoy failed to the eastward, and the men of war are in readiness to weigh. The boom at Algaziras is lengthening considerably, From these circumstances we conjecture that we shall shortly find relief. The floating batteries come on apace.

17th The boom is lengthened about 2000 yards and covers all the floating batteries. The Spanish cruizers are very alert, and neither trust to colours or signals. The enemy have began a battery near Tarifa, (from the account the deserter gives that came in on the 14th) and that 600 men are detached for that purpose.

Wind

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shore---  
roofed  
quarters

Wind E. Six large boats arrived from <sup>1782</sup> the eastward at Algaziras---they appear to July be new, and of the construction of their <sup>18th</sup> gun boats. The enemy keep working day and night at the floating batteries; the roof of one is quite finished, and is much like the top of a house, having a gradual ascent from head and stern. Three mortar boats came out of the river, and have gone to the Orange Grove. On the land side, nothing new appears, and what work is done by the enemy is within the batteries. A brisk fire from their forts.

The boom at Algaziras is extended the <sup>19th</sup> length of the town, and all the cruizers are inside; the bomb ketch which lay at the Orange Grove weighed anchor, and has taken her station at the same place. The old pastime of shot and shells cannot be forgot, we keep playing away manfully. A sailor who happened to be in town when a shell burst over his head, exclaimed with the usual oath, for which they are so much distinguished, "D--n me, but the Spaniards have got a battery in the air."

All hands busy at work on the opposite <sup>21st</sup> shore---three of the floating batteries are roofed over. The regiments exchanged quarters this day.

Wind

1782 Wind W. A large xebec arrived and anchored at Algaziras. The enemy have nearly roofed another of the flating batteries, and the three last that were taken in hand, are in great forwardness.

24th The serjeant taken at the back of the rock on the 11th, was executed for the same, and died with penitence becoming his unhappy situation.

25th Wind strong E. Arrived the St. Phillip's Castle, and General Murray sloop of war, from Leghorn—they have brought provision for the garrison, with 5 officers and 75 Corsicans. They bring the agreeable intelligence of Admiral Rodney having defeated the French, and taken the Ville de Paris of 110 guns, with four other line of battle ships. Our Governor ordered a salvo from the batteries, and a *feu de joye* to be fired, which you will perceive by the

#### Garrison Orders.

“ PAROLE RODNEY. *A feu de joye this day to celebrate the victory gained by His Majesty's fleet under the command of Sir George Rodney, over the French fleet in the West Indies. All the ordnance from the rock gun to Princess Carolina's inclusive to be fired at one o'clock, beginning at the rock gun shot.* At

At six  
post on  
drawn  
“ 7

Hesse's  
the 12th  
King's  
12th;  
Major  
73d reg  
73d;  
tillery  
will be  
begin to  
the fir  
round,  
third r  
finished  
in the

The  
cheered  
and fat  
I hope  
tress an  
their p  
victory  
floating  
though

At six in the evening the regiments will take 1782  
post on the line wall, in the following order, July  
drawn up two deep. 25th

“The 72d regiment right to the Prince  
Hesse's battery; 12th join the left of 72d;  
the two town companies of artillery on the  
King's bastion; the 39th on the left of the  
12th; Lieut. General Reden's left of 39th;  
Major General La Mott's left of Reden's;  
73d right at ragged staff; 56th on the left of  
73d; the three South companies of Royal Ar-  
tillery in the New Mole Fort. Two rockets  
will be thrown up on the right, as a signal to  
begin the first round--two from the left, when  
the fire returns from thence for the second  
round, and two more from the right for the  
third round. Three cheers when the firing is  
finished, to begin on the right, and pass along  
in the same manner as the firing did.”

The shipping and gun boats fired and  
cheered at one o'clock, and the greatest spirit  
and satisfactory joy concluded the whole.

I hope that this success will contribute to dis-  
tress and dispirit our foes, who vaunting of  
their power, bluster and threaten, and claim  
victory as their own. These impregnable  
floating batteries will shortly be tried, and  
though the Spanish gazettes boast of unborn  
achievements,



1782 achievements, yet there is not the least doubt July but our red hot pills will effectually answer 25<sup>th</sup> our purpose. . They must be of an amazing construction if blazing twenty fours, and thirty twos will not burn them. Of this the day of tryal will decide.

This being St. James's Day, the enemy's ships were dressed and saluted three times.— The enemy roofed over another floating battery.

26<sup>th</sup> Wind W. Arrived a small settee from Portugal with wine and fruit. She has brought a confirmation of the glorious defeat of the French. The enemy endeavoured to take her but was too late in getting out.

30<sup>th</sup> The floating batteries come rapidly on, another of them is roofed over. The foe devotes their whole time and study to get them finished and work day and night. On our part as we are convinced they are intended to attack the place, we as anxiously wish for their speedy equipment; to give the decisive stroke, and to determine whether Britannia or Gaul and Iberia shall be victorious. It will be hot and stubborn work if they are of the strength that is reported, namely, *bomb-proof* that will resist a shell which weighs 2  $\frac{1}{2}$  hundred before it is discharged from the mortar, and when it is descends, it is supposed to fall 30 ton weight.

Yours, &c.

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is proba  
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with it,  
constant  
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## LETTER XXXV.

Their blooming hopes soar high in this delusion,  
 To gain possession of this envied place,  
 And on the battlements Spain's ensigns spread.

## GIBRALTAR.

Dear BROTHER,

THE foe, ere long, will make their 1782  
 promised storm---their batteries are Aug.  
 completed, and their junk-ships almost ready. 4th  
 A numerous army encamped, and boats  
 for landing their troops are in the rivers. It  
 is probable that this month will be the grand  
 decision of the combat, and we heartily  
 wish it, as we are almost worn out with  
 constant toils, harrassing expectations, and  
 severe cannonade.

I I

H h

The

1782 The enemy have brought several fire ships Aug. out of the rivers--the floating batteries have 4th a very ugly and odd appearance--We think they were mounting ordnance in one to-day, as a great many boats were along side.

The Corsicans that arrived here from Leghorn, are formed into a company, viz.

Signor Antonio Leonettie, Captain  
 Phillippo Massaria, Capt. Lieutenant  
 Georgio Alexandria Michili, 1st Lt.  
 Leonardo Monti, Adjutant, with the  
 [rank of Lieutenant  
 Angelo Raffaelli, 2d Lieutenant  
 Luigi Cotie, Chaplain  
 4 Sergeants  
 4 Corporals  
 2 Drummers  
 68 Private Men

—  
 Total 84  
 —

7th A deserter from the enemy came in, and says, that the floating batteries are almost ready, and that one has been tryed with ball, and answers their expectation.

8th Wind W. Arrived two vessels under Imperial colours, from the westward at Algaziras, and the line of battle ship sailed from that place to the Orange Grove, supposed

to take in powder and stores. The floating 1782 batteries are very near finished. The enemy Aug. fire with spirit from the land side.

Wind E This day arrived a French 20- 8th gun ship, at the opposite side. Several parties are employed on the strand, beyond the Spanish lines, we suppose for the purpose of erecting a battery, they being apprehensive of a visit in that part, whenever our fleet arrives.

The ship that came in yesterday, has re- 11th moved to the Orange Grove, probably to discharge her cargo. The enemy keep labouring at their junk ships, and have taken the masts out of one them, but most people are of opinion they never will be able to bring them over without sails.

The enemy have put smaller masts into 12th the ship, that they dismasted yesterday, and are very busy rigging her--From this it is evident they mean to sail to their anchorage. From what opinion we can at present form, we imagine from their closeness and wanting air, that they will find an inconvenience in working their guns with briskness.

Wind W. Sailed the Eliza brig, for 13th Leghorn. The vessels arrived under Imperial colours, sailed to the Orange Grove. The enemy are very busy in rigging two of the floating batteries.

Arrived



1782 Arrived a frigate, under French colours Aug. from the westward at Algaziras--Four gun 14th boats fired at her, apprehending she was an enemy, until she displayed her colours.

The enemy have taken out the masts of four of the batteries, and replaced them with others much smaller--the two that were rigging have bent their sails--We imagine they will shortly all of them be ready.

During the course of last night, the enemy erected a work composed of sand bags, extending obliquely from the eastern shore, towards the centre of the Spanish lines. It is computed from its length and height, and having so short a space of time to complete it in, only about six hours darkness, that there was not less than 10,000 men employed in the execution of it.—At present it is masked, but there is not the least doubt but the enemy intend it for a battery.

17th The enemy have hauled out one of their floating batteries being perfectly finished; she has a very awkward and surprizing appearance, and lays very low in the water.--They are very attentive in equipping the others. Wind W. arrived a cutter from the westward, and saluted the Admiral with 11 guns, which he returned with three. A tolerable brisk cannonade from the enemy's forts and lines.

About

About eleven o'clock this forenoon the 1782 enemy made a grand display in the bay--se- Aug. ven barges with crimson awnings proceeded 18th from Algaziras attended by 12 gun boats to the Orange Grove--In half an hour after their arrival, they put off in the same order, upon which the shipping immediately dressed and the Admiral gave a salute of 21 guns,--the other shipping also fired, and the gun boat each of them discharged their ordnance. A frigate got under weigh from Algaziras, and under a gentle sail went to meet the barges, which when she had come half way she gave a salute of 21 guns, the gun boats firing alternately, until the barges got to Algaziras, when another royal salute was given. The barges then went on board the junk ship hauled out yesterday, and a discharge of cannon continued while the visitors remained on board--Having gratified their curiosity in the examination of the floating battery, they went on board the Admiral's ship to dine, and regale themselves, and drink a hearty bumper in success to their undertaking, where they continued till 6 o'clock in the evening, when in the same procession they came in, they returned to the pier at the Orange Grove, and on their landing another salute was given.--Some are of opinion that this rejoicing is occasioned by the arrival of

1782 a Prince of the Blood, and others that it is  
 Arg the Admiral who is to command the floating  
 batteries.

19th. This forenoon a flag of truce from the  
 Orange Grove came over, and rowed along  
 pretty near our line-wall, until she came  
 opposite Ragged-staff, when one of our  
 boats went out with Captain Vallotin of the  
 56th Regiment (chief aid-de-camp to the  
 Governor) and spoke to her, and soon after-  
 wards returned.—The boat kept very close  
 in with the shore, making a survey of the  
 works, when the Repulse, (an advanced gun-  
 boat) fired a shot as a caution for her to  
 keep her proper distance.—Soon afterwards  
 Captain Vallotin returned to the flag of  
 truce, which brought a handsome present  
 of fruit and game for the Governor, from  
 Count de Artois, whose arrival in the Spa-  
 nish camp occasioned yesterday's rejoicing.—  
 The floating batteries are rigging with the  
 utmost expedition. The day of tryal is ve-  
 ry near at hand, I hope we shall acquit our-  
 selves in the defence of this place, with ho-  
 nor and success.

20th. This morning our Governor sent out a  
 flag of truce to the enemy, with a return for  
 the present received yesterday. I am confi-  
 dently told, it consisted of a cask of beef,  
 pork, and butter, a cheese, a puncheon of  
 rum,

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rum, a sheep and a goat, some poultry, and 17<sup>th</sup> 22  
a quantity of potatoes. "with the General's Aug  
compliments to the Count, thanking him 20<sup>th</sup>  
for his kindness, and assuring him that  
he did not want any refreshments." This  
was policy, and to make the enemy believe  
that our situation was not so deplorable as  
they imagined, though I assure you that the  
boat load we sent out, would have been  
thought an estate by many opulent families  
in this place.

Wind E. This morning we observed the 22<sup>nd</sup> 1<sup>st</sup>  
Eliza brig that sailed from hence on the 13<sup>th</sup>,  
returning from the eastward under a Spanish  
ensign, and also 13 large boats which we i-  
magine are for the purpose of landing troops,  
from their size it is not improbable but  
each of them may contain 500 men.—Six  
of the floating batteries are almost rigged---  
two completely equiped for battle.

This afternoon our batteries poured upon 22<sup>nd</sup> 1<sup>st</sup>  
the enemy's works a considerable discharge  
of shot, shells, and carcasses, and had the  
satisfaction to set the enemy's advanced isth-  
mus work on fire, which burnt most furi-  
ously for an hour or better.—A brisk fire  
was maintained on both sides with the firm-  
est spirit and bravery, and the enemy were  
several times drove off their works, and for-  
ced to abandon a battery on the left of St.  
Carlos,



1782 Carlos, termed the Mahon Battery. We Aug. fired from the garrison in the space of an hour 22d near 1400 rounds---the cannonade continued furious till 9 o'clock, when the enemy rather slackened their fire. We had only three men wounded, but judge what loss the foe must have sustained, as they had a body of near 2,000 men employed, in endeavouring to extinguish the fire.

23d The enemy have roofed another floating battery, and are rigging those that are already roofed; one of them appears to have about 26 ports on one side. Our batteries keep playing away upon the isthmus and we have been using every means to fire the enemy's works again, but all ineffectually.

24th The sand-bag work erected on the 16th instant, consists of four batteries of 16 guns each. The enemy are busy in nailing down their platforms, and getting all things in readiness to mount the ordnance---They will be able to scour our lines, and advanced posts from this work, and also in the rear, of which they are forming bomb batteries, so resolutely determined are they upon the capture of the old rock.

25th The enemy had a rejoicing to-day on the sea-side---in the morning, at sun-rise, the ships dressed, and fired, as did also the island near Algaziras--this was repeated again at noon,

noon, and at the going down of the sun. 1782  
The floating batteries are almost ready. Aug.

The St. Phillip's Castle, and the ordnance 26th  
store shipping that lay in the Rosia Bay,  
hauled in this morning to the New Mole.  
The bay on our side is quite clear, as all  
our ships are now within the boom. From  
the situation of the place, it is whispered  
that the seamen are to be landed, and in-  
corporated into a brigade, to act as soldiers  
within the walls, under the command of  
Capt. Curtis, as Colonel. The enemy have  
eight of their floating batteries roofed---the  
day of battle is nigh at hand.

This morning a deserter came in from 27th  
Spain, and brings advice, that the enemy  
have every preparation made on the land-  
side for the assault, and that they are only  
waiting for the junk ships, when they mean  
to attack us in every quarter---He also says  
that eight line of battle ships are expected  
from Cadiz, to act in conjunction with the  
*floatantees*. He was taken prisoner at Mi-  
norca, by Duke de Crillon, and enlisted into  
a French regiment, but not liking to fight  
against his King and country, embraced the  
first opportunity of making his escape.

Wind W. Arrived at Algaziras, six line 8th  
of battle ships, two xebecs and a cutter.

1782 The ninth floating battery is almost roofed, Aug. but is much smaller than the others.

28th The deserter that came in yesterday, says, that on the night of the 16th, he was among the number that helped to erect the sand bag work, and from the accounts in the Spanish camp there was about 11 000 men employed to effect it, that had we fired towards the eastern shore, the greatest part must have been cut off.

29th The crews of the men of war and other shipping in New Mole are landed, and employed in bringing their stores on shore. The seamen are in good spirits, and swear bitterly against the Dons. - This little reinforcement will be of great service to us. The enemy fire brisk on the land side.

30th Garrison Orders.

*"The officers and crews of His Majesty's ships being landed, are to be encamped at Europa, and to form the Marine Brigade. Capt. Curtis commanding His Majesty's ships in the Mediterranean is appointed to serve as Brigadier General."*

You would really smile to view the tars handling their firelocks, and marching full accoutred, the boatswain pipes all hands aloft

loft,—brace the yards tacks and sheets &c. 1782  
 are no longer heard,—the glittering beauties Aug.  
 of the parade engage the attention, while 30th  
 whistling winds, and roaring billows are for-  
 gotten. Thus military equiped they long  
 for battle, to perform their evolutions and  
 manœuvres, which on a parade might excite  
 laughter, but 'midst blazing cannon, and  
 clouds of smোক every aukward appearance  
 will be hid—If they *prime and load* expedi-  
 tionously, it is all that will be required, nor  
 will they need to *rest, shoulder, or poise*.

I am,

Dear Brother,

Affectionately yours.

LETTER



## LETTER XXXVI.

GIBRALTAR.

Dear BROTHER,

1782 **T**HE action has not yet taken place,  
 Sept. though every day adds fresh convin-  
 1st cing proofs of a speedy termination. The  
 enemy strenuously exert themselves both by  
 land and sea, they have hauled out 5 of their  
 floating batteries in a line with the first, hav-  
 ing bent their sails, and otherwise rigged  
 them. On the isthmus is a battery almost  
 within pistol shot, sufficient of itself

To frighten a whole legion of infernals,  
 When told they must withstand its migh-  
 ty foamings.

In the camp of Santa Roque, is an army  
 of 50,000 men, not worn out with the heavy  
 toils

toils of war, but healthful and vigorous, while 1782  
 our garrison deprived of all nourishment, and Sept.  
 almost as feeble as old age for want of succour, it  
 can muster very few more than 5000 men  
 and boys, including sick, wounded and dis-  
 abled, to repulse the efforts of such a superior  
 force,

But as we're *actors*--Europe the spectators,  
 I trust we shall perform in this great cause,  
 As men determined to maintain the right  
 Of George our King, and Britains fame and  
 welfare.

Although the foe have made a heft'ring  
 boast,

That each discharge from land and sea  
 we'll find,

Two thousand shot and shells from guns  
 and mortars :

Will constantly be show'ring on the garri-  
 son.

Wind E. Two French line of battle ships, 3d.  
 which seemingly stood for the westward came  
 into Algaziras, on a frigates speaking to them.

The enemy's naval force now stands thus.

9 ships of the line,

3 frigates,

4 xebes,

8 galleys,

2 cutters,

1 French

1782

Sept.

3d

- r French ship 20 guns,
- 9 floating batteries complete,
- 1 ditto. almost finished
- 1 bomb ketch

About 100 gun and mortar boats, beside boats for landing troops.

6th The enemy have been assiduously employed in mounting guns in their 64 gun battery -- We have kept almost an incessant fire from the rock gun upon it, but it being so thick covered over with sand, the shot make very little penetration. An additional field officer is ordered to take post in the lines, and a reinforcement to the New Mole Guard. The Corsican company that were embodied Aug. 4th, are ordered for duty tomorrow. Every one that is able to fire a musquet, or carry a shot, must take post upon any alarm. The tenth floating battery is roofed, and began rigging—a few days more and then we shall fall to it *ding dong*.

7th Three of the floating batteries loosed their sails, and got under way, they proceeded to the Orange Grove, and was near 3 hours performing their passage notwithstanding they had a favorable wind: They appear to be very heavy and ill-going vessels—I suppose there was not a perspective in the garrison but what was employed in the examination of their form and rigging.

Garrison

Garrison Orders.

1782

*"The marine brigade to take Europa ad-Sep.  
vance, and Little-Bay guards to-morrow."* 7th

Reinforcements are ordered likewise to Princes Lines, Landport, Waterport Main and Ragged-staff guards.

This morning Lieut. General Boyde took 8th post on grand battery, having the command of all the batteries, and the necessary arrangements being made from the rock gun to the Old Mole head, we began a furious cannonade of red hot balls upon the enemy's Mithon Battery, and other lines of approach, together with a supply of shells and carcasses — The most captivating joy gained possession of the soldiery, and every heart and hand was cheerfully employed, and while gazing crowds who had taken post upon Andalusia's hills, beheld the volleys of destruction that flew in showers, and the sad effects that were productive of the red flaming balls, our men rejoiced and made a pastime of the dire employ. The foe withstood our fire with intrepidity until their works were blazing in several places, and strewed over with mangled limbs and dead bodies. Several parties appeared upon their glacis, and in an undaunted manner tore up the fascines--Some kept pouring of baskets of sand upon the parts



1782 parts that were on fire, and others running  
 Sept. 10 the sea for buckets of water. Thus they  
 8th stood, while showers of balls fell on every  
 side, and many were observed to be knocked  
 off the works. I assure you it was a horrid  
 scene of slaughter, and the enemy were con-  
 strained to cease their cannonade to save the  
 remainder of their men. The firing conti-  
 nued in this spirited manner from seven till  
 near one o'clock, during which we had se-  
 veral killed and wounded, among whom  
 are Lieut. Boag of the Royal Artillery, and  
 Ensign Gordon of the 58th regiment, but  
 not mortally. The battery which mounted  
 13 pieces of cannon was entirely consumed.

9th This morning between 4 and 5 o'clock,  
 the enemy opened their 64 and other batte-  
 ries, with the greatest spirit upon the garri-  
 son, which we immediately answered--Their  
 64 gun battery was an incessant volley the  
 whole time, which lasted most of the day,  
 and the distance being so short, their shot  
 reached the walls almost as soon as you per-  
 ceived the flash; so quick was the discharge  
 that the balls rolled along the streets by doz-  
 ens; this was by way of retaliation, for the  
 unexpected compliment we paid them yester-  
 day. Lieut. Wharton 73d regiment and se-  
 veral men wounded. The enemy remove  
 their

their floating batteries to the Orange Grove 1782  
 as fast as they get them ready— here are two Sept.  
 of them that have not got their sails bent--- 9th  
 Their line of battle ships, nine in number,  
 stretched over in a line from the Orange  
 Grove this forenoon, and fired upon the  
 garrison until they passed Europa, when  
 they tacked again and returned firing the  
 same way, they then stood, to the opposite  
 side, where they lay with their sails loose  
 until near sun-set, when they again stretched  
 over, and under a gentle sail directed their  
 fire on the southward, in the same manner  
 as before, continuing their course to the  
 eastward, at which time their gun boats  
 came over, and rowed in a line under the  
 King's bastion, and began a fire, but our  
 batteries gave them such a smart reception,  
 that they found it convenient to withdraw.  
 The 97th regiment which landed last month,  
 are ordered to do duty.

About 12 o'clock last night the nine line 10th  
 of battle ships returned from the eastward,  
 and fired upon Europa and the Southward  
 encampments: They continued a brisk can-  
 nonade until they came near the King's bas-  
 tion, when they stood over to the Orange  
 Grove and anchored--several seamen at Eu-  
 ropa and others, were wounded thereby.

K k

From

1782 From the land side they also maintain a  
Sept. brisk cannonade, and their 64 gun battery,  
10th represents an entire blaze--It is apprehended  
that we shall suffer considerably from this  
work.

Between 10 and 11 this night, the enemy  
advanced to Bay-side, and set fire to the Pal-  
lisadoes at that place, which burnt very free-  
ly for some time, when one of them again  
advanced, observing it rather decaying, and  
put fresh fire to those that were not consu-  
med, notwithstanding the guards in the  
lines and at the advanced posts, discharged  
their musquetry upon him: The gun and  
mortar boats came over at the same time,  
and poured in a brisk salute of shells and  
shot for above two hours--Some few killed  
and wounded upon the occasion.

11th This morning we perceived a great part  
of the pallisadoes burnt down, sufficient to  
admit 8 men abreast.---From this circum-  
stance we imagine they will not be long be-  
fore they make the assault. From the isth-  
mus and torts they keep a constant fire, and  
this morning as I came off Landport Guard,  
crossing the Esplanade, I observed a soldier  
before me, laying on the ground, and his  
head somewhat raised, and supported on his  
elbows; I ran to him, imagining the man  
had life, and lifted him up, when such a

fight

fight  
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fight was displayed to my view, that I think 1782  
 I never shall forget--a 26lb. ball had gone Sept.  
 through his body, and his entrails as they 11th  
 hung out from the orifice were of a most  
 disagreeable resemblance; whether it was  
 from the force of the ball, or their natural  
 colour, I cannot pretend to determine--The  
 shot from the enemy were dropping on every  
 side, and as I found his life was gone, I left  
 him on the same spot, and made the best of  
 my way to the southward.--A party of men  
 buried him soon afterwards. The floating  
 batteries at the Orange Grove have been ta-  
 king in stores, &c. yesterday and to-day.  
 The other two have also arrived there.

The enemy continue the fire from their 12th  
 land batteries. Several boats have been  
 brought out of the rivers to the Orange  
 Grove; some of them seems to have a kind  
 of a cover, which we suppose is to shelter  
 them from our musquetry, when they come  
 near the shore. The wind being westerly,  
 we shall expect the junk ships to embrace  
 this opportunity. The enemy have been e-  
 recting stand or booths around the shore,  
 lined with crimson or tawny.

A report is just circulated that a fleet are  
 observed in the gut—we hope it is the Bri-  
 tish coming to our relief--every one seems  
 impatient to discover their colours: A gen-  
 tleman



1782 A man who has been taking a view, says  
Sept. they are French and Spanish men of war;  
12th if to our fate is inevitable.

The fleet are now distinguishable by the  
naked eye, they are ships of force, under  
French and Spanish colours, standing for the  
bay. The garrison are greatly agitated and  
disappointed in their expectations. Will  
you believe me Brother, there is forty-four  
sail of the line, exclusive of the nine already  
on the station, who are now anchoring be-  
tween Algaziras and the Orange Grove.  
If we can withstand this force we may  
bid defiance to all the world. The gun  
and mortar boats come daringly on, as much  
as to say, "*Ye dogs surrender*." but luckily  
a shot struck one of them, when she disap-  
peared---the rest soon afterwards retired.  
Major Lewis of the Royal Artillery, was  
wounded this day.

A reinforcement is ordered to Queens lines  
and to the different picquets, nine of which  
are to take post in town.

That our enemy's may be defeated is the  
sincere and hearty wish of

Your loving Brother.

LETTER

## LETTER XXXVII.

GIBRALTAR.

*7 o'clock in the morning.*

Dear BROTHER,

**T**O Arms! to arms! is all the cry---1782  
 the enemy's floating batteries have Sept.  
 weighed anchor, and are now under sail 13th  
 with a fine breeze at N. W. Their colours  
 wanton in the wind with gaudy decorations  
 for the battle, while thousands of spectators  
 from yon glittering shore, impatient wait to  
 triumph their success. They have now  
 tacked with their heads towards the garrison,  
 and what is remarkable, they work them  
 without a man being exposed or seen.

*Halcy*

1782

*Half past 9 o'clock.*

Sept. The floating batteries have just brought  
13th too, between the Old mole and King's basti-  
on, within 800 yards of the walls---adieu!  
Victory or Death will crown our cause---  
The garrison have begun firing upon them.

\* \* \* \* \*

*Half past 11 at night.*

Tired and fatigued I sit down to let you  
know that the battle is our own, and that  
we have set the enemy's ships on fire. When  
they came on at nine this morning, we be-  
gan a discharge of cold shot upon them, but  
to our great astonishment we found they re-  
bounded from their sides and roofs, even a  
13 inch shell would not penetrate one!  
however we were not much disheartened,  
although we had several killed, but with all  
possible speed we kindled our furnaces and  
fires, and put in our pills of 32lb. weight  
to roast. If you could have peeped over the  
rock, and viewed our several employs, you  
could not have forbore smiling; some stati-  
oned to work the guns like Ethiopians black  
by rubbing their faces with their hands dir-  
tied with powder---the sons of Vulcan were  
blowing and sweating, while others were al-  
lotted to carry the blazing balls, on an iron  
instrument

instrument made for that purpose, but as <sup>1782</sup> these did not afford a sufficient supply for the Sept. batteries, wheel barrows were procured fill'd <sup>13th</sup> with sand, and half a dozen shot thrown in to each. A stubborn and well directed fire was maintained on both sides, the Spanish land batteries co-operating, during which we had the inconfolable loss of Capt. Reeves of the Royal Artillery, killed; Capt. Grove, Seward, and Lieut. Godfrey of ditto, Lieut. Whitham of 58th, and Capt. Alexander M'Kenzie of 73d regiments, wounded, beside several non-commissioned officers and men killed and wounded.

What with the heat of the day, the forges, furnaces, and piles of flaming shot, amidst clouds of smoak and sulphur, accompanied with heavy t il, you may judge we found ourselves very feeble and thirsty, and in this situation a drink of water (which was all the allowance could scarce be procured. Lieut ----- of the 72d regiment, observing the men under his command, almost exhausted with drought, he chearfully took a keg, (which holds about a pail) went to the fountain, filled it with water and brought it through the enemy's fire to the men on the battery.



1782

*One o'clock in the morning.*

Sept. The floating batteries have ceased firing, 14th and one of them has just broke out in flames, the hands on board them are throwing of rockets as signals for assistance.—Capt. Curtis with a body of men have just arrived at the New Mole, to man our gun boats, to prevent the enemy from escaping.—A report is now received that an officer and 11 men were drove a shore, upon a piece of timber, being part of a floating castle that was sunk by a shell from the garrison, as she was steering to co-operate with the *floatantees*.

*Day-break.*

Our bay appears a scene of horror, our gun boats have been chasing two boats that left the junk ships, one of which they have taken, they are now employed in saving the unhappy wretches from flames and death, while the enemy from the land batteries inhumanely fire upon our boats to prevent their giving them relief.

To hear the lamentation of the crews,  
The groans and cries that through the  
flames resounded,

Imploring

Imploring our assistance from the danger, 1789  
 Of fire and water---ready to devour; Sept.  
 Words are too weak, to give a just description ! 14th

One of their ships blew up with dreadful  
 noise,

While *Curtis* grappled to her scorching  
 sides, [and carriages,

The blazing beams, the masts, the yards,

In the explosion scatter'd in the air,

And cover'd o'er the sea with foaming  
 wreck.

7 o'clock.

The enemy's ships are blowing up one af-  
 ter another, half full of men, and our boats  
 having staid as long as possible, they are now  
 returning with a body of prisoners. A re-  
 markable instance of providence I cannot  
 help penning--A young boy on board one of  
 the floating batteries, (which was almost in  
 an entire blaze,) observing our boats making  
 for shore, got upon the head, wept and cry'd,  
 and in the Spanish tongue called for help; his  
 intreaties prevailed, and one of our boats not-  
 withstanding the immense danger which  
 threatened, rowed towards him, which he  
 perceiving, jumped into the sea, and at that  
 very instant the ship exploded, with the  
 greatest part of the hands on board--The boat  
 soon after took the boy up.

1782 Captain Curtis is arrived at New Mole, with Sept. about 400 prisoners including officers, some 14th of them miserably wounded and scorched, the boat that he was in, was overset in the explosion of the first floating battery, by which his coxswain was lost. As the Spanish officers came past a furnace at the New Mole, in which there was about 100 red hot balls, and some of them melted with the excessive heat, they shrugged their shoulders and gave a piteous groan at what their eyes beheld.

Our seamen are bringing the trophies of *victory* on shore, one has just landed with the Royal Standard of Spain, which was intended by the foe to be hoisted upon these battlements. The hills and heights were covered with spectators, when the tars began their procession, incessant shouts and repeated acclamations continued from the Mole to the South parade, where the Governor and principal officers were congratulating on the occasion, to whom they carried the colours, which sensible pleased our gallant chief who joined the crowd in three cheers, and presented the tars with some gold as a reward.

Each heart and soul's inflam'd with highest pleasure,

To view *Iberia's* ensigns in our hands ;

While ev'ry *Briton* crowds around the standard,

To

To prize the grand display of glorious 1782  
conquest. Sept.

Some smile- then view--carress--admire-- 14th  
shake hands,

And with a heart-felt zeal, recount the  
battle;

*King George and victory* re-echoes round,  
While *Andalusia's* shore weeps at the  
found.

The prisoners are all landed, and escorted  
to Wind Mill Hill where they are to be en-  
camped; the wounded are gone to the Naval  
Hospital, where every care and tenderness  
will be shewn them,--some of them were  
most horrid spectacles, one in particular I  
must mention, who was carried by four  
men on a handbarrow,--He had received a  
wound on his face, so that his nose and eyes  
were separated from his head, hanging by a  
piece of skin, and the motion of the men  
that carried him; occasioned its flapping  
backwards and forwards, much resembling  
a mask, though he must have felt the most  
sensible agony, yet he looked round him  
with great complacency, as he passed the  
numerous crowds of people.

The floating batteries have not all explod-  
ed—One of them has almost burnt to the  
waters edge, the crew having thrown the  
powder



1782 powder overboard. The enemy's land batteries maintain their cannonade upon the 14th garrison, spitting forth their venom'd rage, while on the opposite shore confusion and consternation visibly appears. The Nobles and Grandees who had assembled to view the capture of the place are withdrawing from the Spanish camp, to carry the direful news to *Phillip's* court, who impatient waits to hear the expected joyful tidings, but what will be his surprize when he hears that the all *victorious impregnable floatantes* are lost, and that flaming balls effected their ruin.

It must be a galling vexation to our foes, to behold their Royal Standard displayed upon our south parade—where it is tyed to a gun and reversed.

The last battery has just exploded off the Old Mole Head; our red hot shot had not fired her, and it being found impracticable to warp her in here, it was judged expedient to detach a boat to set her in flames, which accordingly they effected without any injury from the land batteries. Those formidable machines, the admiration of Spain, and in whose atchievements centred all their pride, are no longer dreadful, nor appear with threatening aspect.

While Princes Dukes, and Grandees on yon hills,

Beheld the sad effects of our hot pills;

\* *Morena*

\* *Morina* in convulsion fits was thrown, 1782  
His junk ships burnt—his promis'd ho-Sept  
nor's flown. 14th

§ *Cordova* with his fleet moor'd in the bay,  
Ne'er with against the British walls to  
lay.

The : *Prince of Nassau*, who was sent to  
seize,

And from brave Gen'ral Eliott take the  
keys;

'Midst disappointment, rage, and dire dis-  
gust,

Renounc'd his glory and the service curst.

The inclosed are copies of returns, where  
in you will find the strength of the garrison,  
the names of the *floatantees* and their strength  
with the number of prisoners saved by our  
boats; and since victory has crowned our  
arms, with satisfaction I conclude, (being  
impatient for you to hear the account) and  
beg leave to subscribe myself,

Your loving Brother.

\* The Admiral commanding the floatantees.

§ The Spanish Admiral commanding the combined fleet

‡ A Prince of the Blood.

LETTER

List of the Battering Ships, destroyed by Red Hot Shot, Sept. 13th and 14th, 1782				
Ships Names.		Commanders Names.	Guns.	Men.
Patrona, -	-	Don Buenaventura Moreno, Admiral,	28	700
Talla Piedra, -	-	Prince of Nassau, -	28	700
St. Francisco de Paula, 1st	-	Don Cayetano Langara, -	26	700
Rosario, -	-	Don Francisco Muinoz, -	26	700
St. Christoval, -	-	Don Frederico Gravina, -	18	600
St. Francisco de Paula, 2d	-	Don Pablo la Cosa, -	9	360
Sta. Ana, -	-	Don Joseph Angeler, -	10	350
Sta. Juan, -	-	Don Francisco Guicvehea, -	10	400
Principe Carlos, -	-	Don Joseph Lopez, -	11	400
Declares, -	-	Don Antonio Bafforto, -	6	28
Total,			172	510

Pri

Stren

*Prisoners taken by Capt. Curtis from the Bat-  
tering Ships*

Sea Officers	-	-	3
Land Officers	-	-	3
Cadets	-	-	2
Chaplains	-	-	3
Surgeon	-	-	1
Serjeants, Corprals and Soldiers	2	16	
Artillerists	{ Land 2 }	-	7
	{ Sea 5 }	-	
Marines	-	-	30
Seamen	-	-	81
French Soldiers	-	-	14
Total			357

*Strength of the Garrison Rank and File 13th  
September, 1782.*

Royal Artillery	494
12	458
39	452
56	457
58	447
72	793
73	778
97	639
Hardenberg's	344
Reden's	337
La Mott's	348
Artificer Company	84
Corficans	72
Total	5703



## LETTER XXXVIII.

GIBRALTAR.

Dear BROTHER,

1782 **Y**esterday evening the enemy marched  
 Sept. down a considerable body of troops to  
 15th their lines, and the combined fleet having  
 loosed some of their sails, we expected we  
 should have had another attack, but the  
 Dons did not shew any inclination to renew  
 the sport.

The fleet remains at anchor. and I trust  
 should they come on, but we shall cause a-  
 nother illumination in the bay. The keep  
 a fire upon us from the isthmus and other  
 batteries--some few wounded, among whom  
 is Lieut. M'Namara of the 72d regiment.  
 We sent a flag of truce to the enemy.

I cannot omit enclosing you a copy of a  
 poem, I wrote on the destruction of the ene-  
 mys battering ships, which received the go-  
 vernor's approbation and acknowledgment.

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On \**Calpe's* mount where num'rous batt'ies rise,  
 And tow'ring bulwarks seem to reach the skies;  
 Great *Eliott* lives, whom cannon loud proclaim,  
 Adorn'd with laurels and with matchless fame:  
 Where Albion's sons ! immortaliz'd in war,  
 Repuls'd the foe and fill'd their host with fear.  
 Whom eighteen months against these walls have laid,  
 With hee'ring boast, and pompous proud parade;  
 Whom *Eliott* taught to rev'rence *Britains* fame,  
 And stamp'd with shot and shells *King George's* name:

1782  
 Sept.  
 15th

*September* twelfth, the combin'd fleet appear'd,  
 To *Negro* point and *Algaziras* steer'd.  
 With such a pow'rful force they thought to fright,  
 But hardy Britons gloried in the fight;  
 With longing eyes we view'd them from our walls,  
 And wish'd to let them taste our red hot balls:

On the thirteenth their batt'ring ships set sail,  
 Wind *West North West*, it blew a pleasant gale.  
 Past nine they moor'd, and then began to play,  
 Within half cannon shot--these *boasters* lay;  
 We mann'd our batteries with cheerful glee,  
 Resolv'd to die or boldly dare be free:

The *God of war* with aspect mild appear'd,  
 He blest'd our cause, and ev'ry soldier cheer'd.

Our *vetran chief*, took post on *King's Bastion*,  
 Amidst the battle cheerful and serene;  
 Triumphant led the troops to the contest,  
 When smiling--thus the Regiments he address'd:  
 "Courage my soldiers--'tis for *Britains* right,  
 "And for your glorious sovereign you fight.  
 "Unto your guns and mortars cheerful go,  
 "And show'r destruction flaming on the foe;

Thus animated we their force despois'd,  
 Began a stubborn fight, and dangers priz'd:  
 Unto their posts, each hasted with delight,  
 And strove who should be foremost in the fight.  
 While Gen'ral *Boyd*, *Britannia's* steady friend,  
 The *South Bastion* with courage did defend;  
 Howitzers, guns, and mortars stunn'd their ears,  
 Made *Monsieurs* tremble, fill'd the Dons with fears;

\*The rock was so named when the Spaniards had it in possession

1782 Red flaming ball, like bell-wing Etna threw,  
 Sept. And death in different shapes unto them flew.  
 15th The sons of Vulcan nimbly fires got,  
 And soon prepar'd huge piles of red hot shot;  
 For fourteen hours they with us did contend,  
 At one next morn the battle it did end;  
 A more delightful view was ne'er display'd,  
 Then when the ships were with bright flames array'd,  
 The pride the baughty boast of France and Spain,  
 With dazzling light adorn'd the briny main;  
 Amidst th' exerting scenes of grief,  
 They rockets threw, the signals for relief:  
 But Spain, inhuman no assistance gave,  
 Nor sent a boat the sev'ral crews to save;  
 From fire consuming, or a wat'ry grave,  
 And when our \* Commodore undaunted steer'd,  
 Through flames and death which all around appear'd;  
 To give the last ring for his tender aid,  
 Their land batteries began a cannonade:  
 Some waving their hands some wept with streaming eyes  
 Some rent the cloudy air with dismal cries;  
 While he rush'd on, the scorching heat defy'd,  
 And one expended while he lay long tide;  
 Six thousand men that came on this command,  
 Some few--a very few escap'd to land,  
 Four hundred only were brought to our shore;  
 Who did our pity and our help implore,  
 These who escap'd unto the Spanish coast;  
 There mean'd their ill success and wept their boast,  
 While hundreds in the flames and sea were lost,  
 And with the explosion into atoms tost:  
 Much thanks are due to officers and men,  
 Whose merit dictates and commands my pen,  
 \* I would tedious be to mark their names and praise,  
 Nor dare the muse to touch the pleasing lays,  
 May valiant Elliot ever be renown'd,  
 With laurels from Britannia's hand be crown'd;  
 May Boyd the veteran and his red hot shot,  
 By King and country never be forgot:  
 From age to age extoll'd be their name,  
 And wrote in golden characters their name.

\* Capt. Curtis, of the Brilliant.



The combined fleet still continue at anchor, and the batteries on the land side can not forget their usual employ. This afternoon the grenadier company of the 30th regiment, escorted the body of a deceased Spanish captain (who died of his wounds) to the place of interment, and fired three volleys over the grave. Yesterday we received a flag of truce from Spain.

The enemy are quiet in the bay, and their 20th boats for landing troops still remain at the Orange Grove—several men wounded by the land fire.

Wind W. Arrived a cutter at Algaziras—several of the Spanish officers have been permitted to return to Spain.

Very hot fire on both sides—a gun was dismounted this forenoon in the Spanish 64 gun battery, by a shot from the garrison. Our loss this day is, one man killed and 9 wounded—Major Horsfall of the 72d regiment, received a wound by the explosion of a shell. Yesterday a criminal was executed at the usual place, for a burglary.

Wind W. The Spanish towers this morning displayed several colours, when the garrison attentively watched the gut, expecting the arrival of our fleet, but to our regret only some neutrals appeared. Received a flag of truce from the Orange Grove.

The



1782 The enemy's gun and mortar boats came  
 Oct over and fired their usual quantity of shot  
 1st and shells, and then retired.---The garrison  
 played very smartly upon them

4th A frigate came over from the opposite  
 side this morning, under a flag of truce, and  
 lay opposite the Old Mole Head, upon which  
 a boat was detached to receive the same---  
 The particulars are not known. The ene-  
 my continue their cannonade.

6th A flag of truce from the enemy. 12 set-  
 tees arrived from the E. at Algaziras

8th Two Spanish launches, under a white  
 flag, came over for the purpose of taking up  
 an anchor left by the frigate off the Old  
 Mole Head on the 4th inst. the Governor  
 having given permission for the same. The  
 combined fleet have not made any signal to  
 sail, but remain spectators of the land can-  
 nonade, which is maintained on both sides.  
 All the Spanish prisoners are gone to Spain.

10th This afternoon a body of troops embarked  
 from the Orange Grove on board the men of  
 war, from which we conjecture they are  
 tired of the expedition, and are going to re-  
 move to some more successful part. Several  
 signals on the tower at Cabritta.

11th Last night Wind N. W. A strong breeze  
 sprang up, and drove several of the enemy's  
 line of battle ships from their moorings

and this morning we discovered one nearly 1782 under the King's bastion, and several others Oct. within cannon shot. The King's bastion 11th began a cannonade upon her, when she finding it impossible to bear off, struck her colours, and ran ashore off Ragged-staff, where Captain Curtis went, and took possession of her, and brought the crew to land. She proves to be the San Miquel of 70 guns and 650 men---The others with some damage and difficulty made their escape. They give an account that our fleet is off the coast, and that the troops which embarked yesterday, were a reinforcement to the different ships, as they lay upon a spring cable, determined to obstruct the entrance of our fleet.

The tower at Cabritta has spread the signal alarm, but the combined fleet have not shewn an inclination to go out, three of the enemy's ships we fired at this morning have struck their topmasts. Our batteries has been firing shells these three hours, upon a ship of the line at anchor on this side of Fort Negro, who could not remove from her anchorage, (where necessity had compelled her to moor) on account of the violent breeze, we could not observe to have done any damage to her.

An English frigate arrived this evening in  
Rofia

1782 Roffa Bay, with dispatches for the governor, Oct. and gives the account that our fleet consists of 34 sail of the line, and a reinforcement of two regiments for the garrison--We rather fear the superiority of our opponents will prove prejudicial to them--God grant they may get safe in.

12th The British fleet under the command of Lord Howe have sailed to the eastward where they are now laying too. It is supposed this experienced Admiral chooses to have sea room rather than run the hazard of the Spanish fire ships, which they have in readiness to run in. Came in the Panther of 64 guns, reported to be laden with powder.

The enemy's fleet still occupy the opposite side, seven of their ships are repairing the damages they received in the late storm.

Garrison Orders

"The Governor is extremely happy to communicate to the Garrison, the following instructions he has just received from England.

"Extract from the Earl of Shelburne principal Secretary of State.

"St. James's, 10th July, 1782.

**I** Am honoured with His Majesty's commands to assure you, that not any encouragement shall be wanting to the brave officers



officers and soldiers under your command. His 1782  
 Royal approbation of the past, will no doubt be Oct.  
 a powerful incentive to further exertions, and 12th  
 I have the King's authority to assure you,  
 that every distinguished mark of emulation  
 and gallantry, which shall be performed in the  
 course of the Siege by any, even of the lowest  
 rank, shall meet with ample reward from His  
 gracious protection and favor,

“ These, His Majesty's intentions, you will  
 communicate in the most public manner, to  
 every part of your Garrison, that they may  
 be perfectly satisfied, that their Royal Master  
 feels for the difficulties they are under, admires  
 their glorious resistance, and will be happy to  
 reward their merit.”

Our fleet are still to the eastward, within 14th  
 sight of the garrison, and the combined fleet  
 at anchor at Algaziras. The shipping that  
 were damaged in the storm are not yet re-  
 paired--The guns and stores of the San Mi-  
 quel have been taken out, to make her float

A vigorous fire kept up on both sides, 15th  
 but all quiet in the bay---We had one offi-  
 cer killed, viz. Lieut. Grumley of the Royal  
 Artillery, and many men wounded.

This forenoon a frigate came round the 16th  
 rock, hoisted a red flag, and fired a gun to  
 windward, as a signal of defiance; upon  
 which



17<sup>th</sup> which the combined fleet got under weigh, Oct. and went out, consisting of 45 sail of the 16<sup>th</sup> line. The garrison were greatly delighted, and those whose duty did not confine them to one place, repaired to the heights and look-outs, to view the engagement, but the two fleets in a short time were out of sight. Reports were then circulated that the discharge of cannon was heard, and others that the flash of guns was seen. One of the enemy's ships that came near the rock, was fired at by the garrison and Panther, but did not receive any material damage. The Panther sailed to the eastward. Captain Curtis and the Governor's aid de camp are on board her.

18<sup>th</sup> Wind E. The British fleet are in sight, standing for the rock, having got the windward of the enemy. We hope now to receive the supplies and relief. Several of the men of war with transports are come into the bay, but the fleet steer to the westward. The 25<sup>th</sup> and 59<sup>th</sup> regiments are landed, and the men of war are returned to the fleet. The enemy are in full chase of Lord Howe, within a league distance, and an uneasiness is visible in the countenance of the garrison. Both fleets have passed the gut.

16<sup>th</sup> Nothing extraordinary in the bay. The cannonade and bombardment continues.---

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Sir Charles Noels succeeds Capt. Curtis as 1782, commodore on this station. — Our shipping Oct. that were scuttled in the New Mole, being 26th got up, the seamen are returning again to their usual employ.

The gun and mortar boats visited us, but Nov without effecting any considerable damage. 4th Some regiments have marched out of the Camp of St. Roque. A criminal was executed this day. Yesterday was wounded Lieut. John M'Kenzie of the 73d regiment.

The 25th and 59th regiments that arrived here the 18th of October, are put on the duty strength, which will be a relief to the garrison. The San Miquel is in New Mole, where the enemy's mortar boats have endeavoured to damage her. — Yesterday they fired several rounds.

Wind W. Arrived a xebec at Algaziras, 20th the enemy's shipping lay very quiet viewing our rattling batteries. It is amazing that the Spaniards are not tired of bombardment the place, as they cannot have any hope of taking it.

The gun and mortar boats came over and 27th fired at the San Miquel, several shells fell in the New Mole, and about the Mole Parade, some few wounded.

The enemy's fire ships are gone into the rivers, but the boats for landing troops remain

N B

main

1782 main at the Orange Grove. The encampment on the right of Fort Negro, has been struck some time, and the troops marched away. In all probability they have given over the thought of another attack. The land fire is continued with great spirit, by which we have many men wounded.

7th The gun and mortar boats came into the bay and fired particularly about the New Mole, supposed to be intended for the San Miguel — A shell some time past, fell into her and exploded, but did not do her any other damage than splitting some of her timber. A xebec and a galley arrived from the eastward --- Europa fired 3 shot at them.

14th Wind W. Arrived a brig in 10 days from D. pford -- The enemy did not offer to interrupt her. Nothing material in the bay.

25th This afternoon the enemy's gun and mortar boats arranged in two divisions began a cannonade and bombardment upon the garrison; Sir Charles Noels immediately manned our gun boats, and headed them into the bay, where a spirited fire was kept up for upwards of two hours. The batteries on the isthmus and lines kept pouring in a liberal discharge; at the same time the enemy threw many shells and shot on shore.

31st On the sea side we are only now and then interrupted, but the land batteries keep constantly

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stantly roaring. We in complaisance return 1782  
the favor, nor are we any ways deficient in Dec.  
number. This year has finished with glori- 31st  
ous success on our side, in gallantly repulsing  
our combined and determined enemies, and  
should they think proper to pay another vi-  
sit, I hope our arms will prove equally victo-  
rious. May the new year be propitious,  
and establish a permanent tranquility, that  
we may partake of the blessings of providence,  
from which we have been upwards of three  
years deprived.

I am, dear Brother,

Yours, &c.

### LETTER XXXIX.

#### GIBRALTAR.

Dear BROTHER,

THE new year has began much the same 1783  
as the last finished, volleys of shot and Jan.  
shells hourly discharged from the Spanish 4th  
works. The enemy have renewed their for-  
mer vigilance in the bay, and yesterday de-  
tached a few cruizers both eastward and  
westward. Lieut. Holloway of the Engli-  
neers received a wound on the batteries.

Wind



1783 Wind W. This forenoon a signal was made on the tower at Cabrita, and two galleys went out from Algaziras, a sail appeared under the Barbary shore, but after two shot being fired at her, she surrendered to the Dons.—She was but a small vessel. The gun and mortar boats visited us but did not do any damage. A hot cannonade is kept up by land.

18th This being the anniversary of Her Majesty's birth day, the Royal Standard was hoisted and a salvo fired at the enemy's works with shot, which occasioned a brisk and spirited return from all the Spanish batteries. The naval force are quiet in the bay.

25th Nothing extraordinary in the Spanish camp, or opposite shore. Wind E. Last night arrived here a letter from Tetuan with poultry, the price of which is greatly enhanced. They bring word that the Court of Spain, are greatly distressed and disgusted with the length and ill success of the Siege. This forenoon a soldier was hanged at the usual place of execution, and died with little emotion.

26th The Spanish gun and mortar boats continue their unprecedented firing upon us, they discharged (under a brisk cannonade from our batteries) about 200 rounds and then retired, some few wounded on the occasion. The land fire does not abate.

Sailed a xebec from Algaziras to the east-1783  
ward, having several frigates under convoy. Jan.  
The gun and mortar boats saluted the fourth 29th  
from the bay. Second Lieut. Angelo Raf-  
fale of the Corsican company was wounded.

This day has brought us joyful news, Feb.  
which at first we could scarce believe. A 2d  
flag of truce came over from the Orange  
Grove, with Duke de Crillon's compliments  
mentioning a cessation of hostilities,--the gar-  
rison enraptured with the sound, spread the  
harmonious tidings and about eleven at night  
all firing ceased on both sides.

Every thing wears a different aspect, our 3d  
very foes jump upon their works and in  
strong vociferation lend forth their congra-  
tulations, the thundering cannon that so of-  
ten has spread death around, are now silent.  
The rapturous sound of peace re-echoes from  
shore to shore, and every tongue is filled with  
the blissful melody. The Spanish offi-  
cers advance towards the garrison, bowing to  
the guards, and seem sensibly to share in the  
happiness. In every corner greeting crowds  
are seen, and the most inexpressible pleasure  
is by all ranks displayed.

What news? a comrade to his friend doth  
cry.

The happiest news! a Peace he doth reply;

A third he whispers, if I may believe,

Supplies of beef and wine we shall receive;

A

1783 A fourth rejoins to England we shall steer,  
Feb Once more partake of friendly British cheer,  
30 Of mutton, veal, roast-beef, and home-  
brew'd beer,

And since tranquility is re-established, I  
with pleasure conclude the sequel of the e  
Letters, and hope in a short time, personally  
to assure you, that

I am, your affectionate Brother.

Memorandum.

1779.

21<sup>st</sup> June. The communication shut.  
12<sup>th</sup> Sept. The garrison commenced cannonading  
the enemy.

1780.

13<sup>th</sup> Jan. Admiral Rodney's fleet arrived.  
7<sup>th</sup> June. Nine of the enemy's fire ships destroy-  
ed before the garrison.

1781.

12<sup>th</sup> April, Admiral Derby's fleet arrived, and  
the Siege commenced.

27<sup>th</sup> Nov. The enemy's mill mortar battery de-  
stroyed by a sortie from the garrison

1782.

8<sup>th</sup> Sept. The enemy's Mahon battery destroyed  
by hot shot from the garrison.

9<sup>th</sup> — The enemy opened all their batteries, and  
a new 64<sup>th</sup> battery.

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12th Sept. The combined fleet came in,

13th--- Ten battering ships anchored before the garrison,

14th--- Destroyed by red hot shot, and blew up alternately,

11th Oct. The Saint Miquel a Spanish 70 gun ship, captured by the garrison--same day Lord Howe's fleet appeared.

1783.

2d Feb. Received the first account from Duke de Crillon, of a treaty of peace--The same night the firing ceased on both sides.

Return of the Killed and Wounded in the under-entrenched Regiments, from the 12th of April, 1781, the Day the Bombardment commenced, to the 3d of February, 1783.

Regiments	Killed				Wounded				Died of wounds.				Recovered of wound.			
	Officer	Sejants	Drummers	Ka. & Pi.	Officers	Sejants	Drummers	Ka. & Pi.	Officers	Sejants	Drummers	Ka. & Pi.	Officers	Sejants	Drummers	Ka. & Pi.
Royal Art.	2	1	-	24	8	4	1	26	-	-	-	7	8	4	1	11
123	1	3	1	13	3	4	7	109	-	-	-	9	3	4	7	109
25	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	8	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
39	1	3	1	10	4	5	1	71	1	1	-	5	3	4	1	60
56	-	-	1	16	4	3	-	72	-	1	-	8	4	2	-	64
58	1	1	-	12	2	3	3	73	-	-	-	4	2	3	3	69
59	-	-	-	-	2	-	1	18	-	-	-	4	-	-	1	14
72	-	2	-	35	3	15	1	178	2	-	8	3	13	1	-	160
73	-	-	-	28	6	7	1	125	-	1	-	7	0	0	1	108
97	-	-	-	7	-	4	2	57	-	-	-	6	-	4	1	45
Reden's	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	44	-	-	-	4	1	1	-	44
La Mott's	-	-	-	1	-	3	-	48	-	-	-	6	-	3	-	42
Sydow's	-	-	-	-	1	7	-	55	-	-	-	5	1	7	-	50
Artificers	-	-	-	6	3	3	-	20	-	-	-	3	3	-	-	26
Marine Brig.	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	9	-	1	-	1	-	1	-	8
Corficans	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	15	19	3	193	30	62	17	1013	1	6	19	55	56	16	9	13



10.06.71

From their land batteries	Shot	Shells	Total
1781 from 12th April to 31st Dec.	100841	20206	130137
1782	71792	38239	110031
1783 from 1st Jan. to 31st Feb.	1122	825	1947
<b>Total land fire</b>	<b>175755</b>	<b>68360</b>	<b>244115</b>
<b>Fired from their gun and mortar boats</b>	<b>6776</b>	<b>7498</b>	<b>14273</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>182531</b>	<b>75858</b>	<b>258389</b>

Expended by the Garrison from 12th Sept. 1779,  
to 3d Feb. 1783.

[illegible]

\* \* \* Errata in the title page, read 3d Feb. for 23d Feb.

*\*\* Errata in the title page, read 3d Feb. for 23d Feb.*

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*Gibraltar, 23d April, 1783.*

The Garrison being drawn up conformable to the Order for this Day, General ELIOTT addressed the Troops in the following Manner, previous to his being invested with the Order of the Bath.

"GENTLEMEN,

I Have assembled you this day, in order that the Officers and soldiers may receive, in the most public manner, an authentic declaration transmitted to me by the Secretary of State, expressing the high sense His Majesty entertains of your meritorious conduct in the defence of this Garrison.

"The King's satisfaction upon this event was soon divulged to all the world, by his most gracious Speech to both Houses Parliament.

"The house of Lords, and the house of Commons, not only made the suitable professions in their address to the Throne, but have severally enjoined me to communicate their unanimous thanks by the following resolutions.

(The Letters of thanks from the Lords and Commons being read, the Governor resumed his Speech as follows)

"No arm has ever been rewarded by higher national honours, and it is well known how great, universal, and spontaneous were the rejoicings throughout the kingdom, upon the news of your success:—These must not only give you inexpressible pleasure, but afford matter of triumph to your dearest friends and latest posterity. As a further proof how just your title is to such flattering distinction at home, rest assured from undoubted authority, that the nations in Europe, and other parts are struck with admiration of your gallant behaviour, even our late resolute, and determined antagonists, do not scruple to bestow the commendations due to such valour and perseverance.

"I now most warmly congratulate you on these united and brilliant testimonies of approbation, amidst such numerous, such exalted tokens of applause, forgive me faithful companions if I humbly crave your acceptance of my grateful acknowledgements.

"I only presume to ask this favour, as having been a constant witness of your submission to the greatest hardships---your matchless spirit and exertions, and on all occasions your heroic contempt of every danger."

Esqim



Estimate of the various articles, and their average prices, during the blockade and siege of Gibraltar, from 21st June, 1779, to 3d of February, 1783

Exchange at 39d. the dollar, being Gibr. curr. Engl. sterling.  
the average upon the whole.

	Gibr. curr.		Engl. sterling.	
	100	100	100	100
Veal per lb	1	4	4	10½
A calves head and feet	10	4	14	1½
A calves pluck	4	4	14	7½
Mutton per lb	1	4	4	10½
A sheeps 5th & hind q. sold for	48	-	7	10
A sheeps head and feet	4	4	14	7½
A sheeps pluck	2	4	8	1h
Beef per lb	1	4	4	10h
Bullocks head without tongue	7	4	3	4h
A bullocks tongue	2	4	8	1h
Bullocks liver per lb	-	3	1	3
Fresh tripe per lb	1	-	3	3
Salt beef per lb	-	3	1	3
Salt pork per lb	-	3	1	3
Fresh pork per lb	1	-	3	3
A hog's pluck	4	4	14	7h
Goat per lb	1	2	4	1
A goat's pluck	2	-	6	6
A goat's head	2	4	8	1h
A turkey	15	-	2	8
A goose	9	-	1	10
A couple of ducks	6	6	1	1h
A pair of fowls	6	6	1	1h
A pair of pigeons	3	-	9	9
Flour per lb	-	3	1	3
Bread per lb	-	4	1	7½
Salt butter per lb	1	4	4	10h
Cheese per lb	1	4	4	10h
Rice per lb	-	3	1	3
Loaf sugar per lb	5	2	17	1
Ten per lb	14	-	2	5
Common candles per lb	-	6	2	5
A hen egg	-	1	8	7h
A pint of milk	-	3	1	3
Potatoes per lb	-	6	2	5
Onions per lb	-	8	2	5

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